



2015
olive cotton award
for photographic portraiture

7 August - 27 September 2015

2015

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for photographic portraiture

The Olive Cotton Award is generously funded by the family of Olive Cotton, one of Australia's leading twentieth century photographers. The 2015 Award will be the ninth Award since it began in 2005.

The Award, which recognises excellence in photographic portraiture, is held biennially with a major prize of \$20,000 and aims to show new portraits by professional and emerging artists. The Friends of Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre Inc. sponsor Directors' Choice awards to the value of \$4,000. All awards are acquisitive, making the Olive Cotton Award an important collecting stream for the Tweed Regional Gallery's collection of Australian portraits.

The Award judge in 2015 is Stephen Dupont, a photographer and documentary filmmaker whose work has earned him some of photography's most prestigious prizes. Over the past two decades, Dupont has produced a remarkable body of work including hauntingly beautiful photographs of fragile cultures and marginalised peoples.

Tweed Regional Gallery acknowledges and thanks Olive's daughter, Sally McInerney, and Josef and Jeanne Lebovic of Josef Lebovic Gallery, for their ongoing support of the Gallery and this Award.

Front:
1 **Michele ABOUD**
born 1957, lives and works in Sydney NSW
George Howard White (detail) 2014
Lambda print

Olive Cotton

Olive Cotton (1911-2003) discovered the art of photography during childhood and was committed to the practice throughout her life. After gaining an Arts degree, she worked successfully as a photographer at Max Dupain's Sydney studio until the end of World War II. She was married to Dupain from 1937-1939 and then in 1944 married Ross McInerney and moved to the bush near Koorawatha, NSW. For 20 years she had no access to darkroom facilities, but continued taking photographs.

In 1964 Cotton opened a small studio in Cowra and in 1985, after a 40 year absence, re-emerged with her first solo show at the Australian Centre for Photography in Sydney. She then concentrated on rediscovering and printing her life's work. A major exhibition of Cotton's work was shown at the Art Gallery of NSW in 2000.

Portrait of a Girl 1931
Olive Cotton by Max Dupain



The Portrait Strikes Back

Since Talbot and Daguerre's pioneering photography in the mid-1800s, the portrait has defined the essence of humanity through every photographic genre, from documentary photography, fashion and advertising, to the family snapshot and now, mobile device selfies. As a photographer myself, I cannot think of a more powerful medium in our time than the portrait photograph. From Curtis, Stieglitz and Brandt through to Arbus, Avedon and Sherman, the portrait photograph has redefined how we see others and ourselves. Without doubt, it is also the most challenging as well as most powerful form of photographic communication there is.

The effort to capture the soul, personality and mood of the human subject has produced some of the most intriguing and moving photographic images of our time. Of all the war photographs by British photographer Don McCullin, it is one simple yet powerful single frame, the portrait of the *Shell-shocked US marine, Hue, Vietnam* (1968), that defines his entire coverage of the Vietnam War. Dorothea Lange's *Migrant Mother* (1936) captured the sadness and pain of America's Great Depression more succinctly than any other image. Lewis Hine's portraits of child labour changed American government policy on working laws. It is the head and shoulders portraits of famous people that shape our recollection of past heroism and fame — Princess Diana, Bob Marley and Che Guevara to name a few. Max Dupain's *Sunbather* not only defined his career but also became an iconic image capturing the essence of Australian beach culture. Photographic portraiture encompasses an almost endless list of photographers, subjects and life moments.

Why is the photo portrait so powerful? Is it because we relate to the common humanity we share with the people depicted? Do we feel and see ourselves in those fleeting moments as we nurture our own memories of love, happiness and pain?

Taking a photographic portrait is no easy task and demands as much spontaneity as street photography, as much imagination as painting and as much passion as cooking. In the end a great photographic portrait must sing, must make you feel something and must surprise you. It needs to stimulate your senses and totally move you. Like the best literature it must be pleasing well beyond the first impression and stay with you long after. As the judge for the 2015 Olive Cotton Award I have brought all these ideas and concepts to my selection process.

So, how has portrait photography changed over time? In the beginning it was totally directed, set up and quite stilted in its process and revelation. It was the

new painting, perfect in rendering likenesses and almost instant. The excitement of capturing loved ones and important people immortalised the human race like nothing else before it. Photographic portraiture has certainly defined our sense of memory, imagination and place in history. For most of us the family photographs are considered not just priceless but irreplaceable possessions. They are still the first thing many would grab in a house fire, albeit perhaps now on a hard drive rather than in an album. Prior to the digital revolution most of the world's population could not afford the luxury of analogue photography. Now, billions of us have mobile phones with cameras and more photographs are taken today than at any other time. Most of these photographs are portraits and in fact millions are captured daily, pictures that will hold a personal importance to the photographer but, as images in themselves, are likely to be forgettable. With the world's over-saturation with imagery it is more important than ever to separate the gems from the rough.

What is truly exciting, is the change that has taken place in portrait photography due to more modern cameras, faster film and now digital capture and the magic of Photoshop and other similar computer applications. Photographic portraiture has become much less formalised and more experimental over time, less about science and more about creativity and imagination, in a similar way to the liberation seen in other art movements over the same period.

A portrait photograph no longer needs to be a sitter posed with eyes directed to the camera. In fact, I believe the best of portrait photography breaks all the rules and must challenge and surprise us. It must be imperfect and have a real emotional output that slaps the viewer on the face and feeds the mind with stimulation and performance. From the blurring caused by the subject's movement to the captured gaze or non-gaze we find ourselves seeing in new and more unusual ways. In the end it becomes less about the subject and more about the exploration of light, form and creative capture by the photographer. Millions of buttons are being pushed hourly in the name of photography, but very few shine. All great portraiture is a collaboration between the sitter and photographer, whether staged or not. Somehow a connection is made and then the captured moment becomes visual poetry.

Stephen Dupont
July 2015
Scarborough NSW



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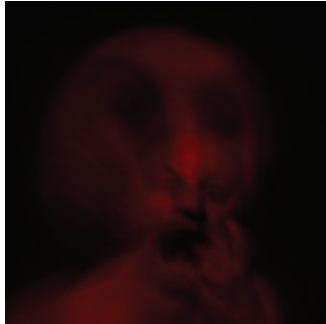
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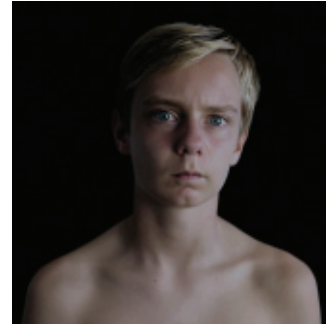
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2 **Matthew ABBOTT**
born 1984, lives and works in Sydney NSW
Daniel, Brewarrina NSW 2015
silver gelatin print

3 **Belinda ALLEN**
born 1956, lives and works in Bundeena NSW
Chris and Murray River 2015
pigment print on cotton rag paper

4 **Louise ALLERTON**
born 1965, lives and works in Albany WA
Isabelle 2014
digital print from Polaroid SX70

11 **Chris BUDGEON**
born 1955, lives and works in Melbourne VIC
Niahm 2015
digital print

12 **Billie Ann BULL**
born 1997, lives and works in Newcastle NSW
At a loss 2015
type C print

13 **Daniel CAMPBELL**
born 1973, lives and works in Melbourne VIC
Danius in denim 2015
digital print

5 **Melissa ANDERSON**
born 1974, lives and works in Cleveland QLD
Dad's loss of vision 2014
giclée print

6 **David APOSTOL**
born 1980, lives and works in Melbourne VIC
II 2014
type C print

7 **Dean BELETICH**
born 1968, lives and works in Tintenbar NSW
Ties 2015
silver halide print

14 **Nick CHIARIZIA**
born 1953, lives and works in Melbourne VIC
Victor Rubin 2015
silver gelatin print

15 **Eva COLLINS**
born 1946, lives and works in Victoria
Twins 2014
digital print

16 **Nadine COOPER**
born 1983, lives and works in Nowra NSW
Reclining monk 2015
digital print

8 **Simon BERNHARDT**
born 1976, lives and works in Sydney NSW
Hawke on toast 2014
digital print on Hahnemühle paper

9 **Brett BOARDMAN**
born 1971, lives and works in Sydney NSW
Seafarer Peter Hegney, Newcastle, 2014 2015
Lambda print

10 **Michael BORZILLO**
born 1983, lives and works in Melbourne VIC
Dressed to kill 2015
type C print

17 **Charles COVERDALE**
born 1995, lives and works in Brisbane QLD
Chasing change 2015
giclée print

18 **Katrina CROOK**
lives and works in Sydney NSW
Thirteen 2015
pigment print

19 **Ellen DAHL**
born 1968, lives and works in Sydney NSW
HER #4 2014
pigment print on cotton rag paper



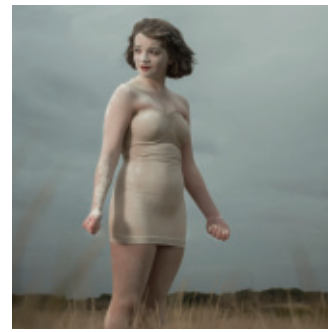
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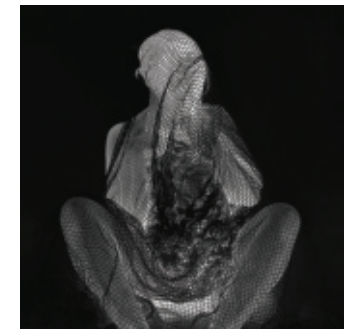
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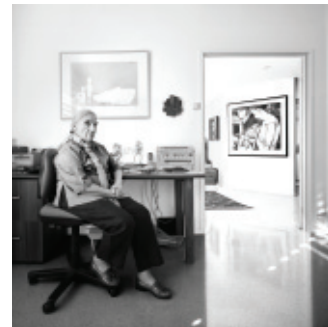
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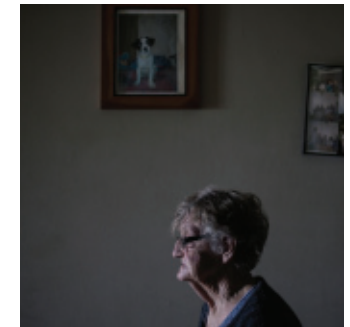
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20 **Sean DAVEY**
born 1979, lives and works in Canberra ACT
Asha with a scratch on her face 2015
pigment print
Courtesy of The Photography Room

21 **Mark DAVIS**
born 1958, lives and works in Ballina NSW
Miss Fribby 2015
infrared digital image with post processing

22 **Raimond DE WEERDT**
born 1963, lives and works in Lismore NSW
One another 2015
Lambda print

29 **Kylie FOLEY**
born 1973, lives and works in Port Stephens NSW
Alice 2014
pigment print on cotton rag paper

30 **Rebecca GEDDES**
born 1974, lives and works in Newcastle NSW
Solitude 2015
pigment print

31 **Tara GILBEE**
born 1970, lives and works in Castlemaine VIC
Lumière noire I 2015
archival print on cotton rag

23 **Tamara DEAN**
born 1976, lives and works in Sydney NSW
Kimberley at 9 2015
inkjet print on cotton rag
Courtesy of Olsen Irwin Gallery, Sydney NSW

24 **Karen DONNELLY**
born 1955, lives and works in Albury NSW
Shut up 2015
digital print

25 **Peter ERICKSON**
born 1945, lives and works in Freshwater NSW
Kimono sleep 2015
inkjet print on Ilford paper

32 **Dean GOLJA**
born 1960, lives and works in Melbourne VIC
45 degrees 2014
digital print

33 **Georgia Lilian GRAFFIN**
born 1993, lives and works in Murwillumbah NSW
The unblemished record of my brother Joel 2015
digital print

34 **Natalie GRONO**
born 1977, lives and works in Lennox Head NSW
Pandemonium's shadow 2015
pigment inkjet print

26 **Carla FELTHAM**
born 1981, lives and works in Lennox Head NSW
Sublimation 2015
pigment inkjet print

27 **Liss FENWICK**
born 1989, lives and works in Brisbane QLD
Self-portrait underwater, hometown, Northern Territory 2014
pigment print on Hahnemühle paper

28 **Michael FLATT**
born 1955, lives and works in Strathbogie VIC
Napangardi and family 2014
digital inkjet print

35 **Imogen HALL**
born 1963, lives and works in Melbourne VIC
Barbara Blackman listens to the photograph 2013
type C print

36 **Scott HANNAFORD and Rohan THOMSON**
born 1975 and 1988, live and work in Canberra ACT
Gabriel 2014
digital print from scanned negative

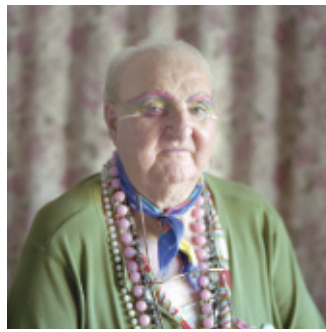
37 **Sahlan HAYES**
born 1967, lives and works in Kangaloon/
Sydney NSW
The killing of Millers Point (Pat and Brandy) 2015
digital print



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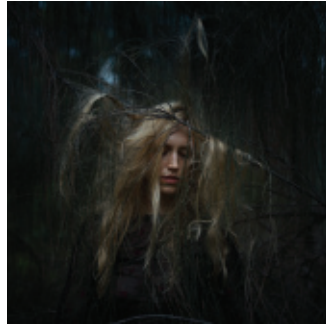
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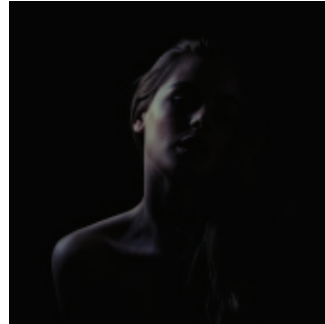
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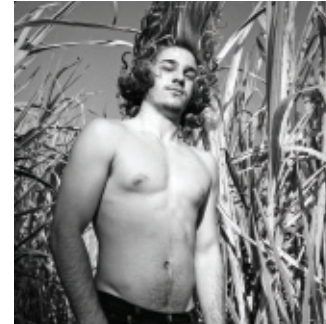
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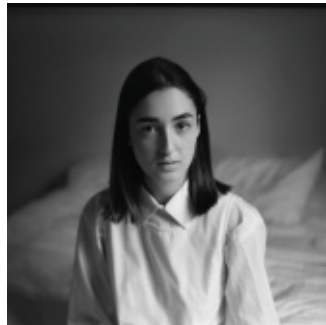
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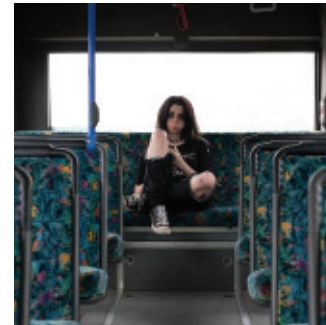
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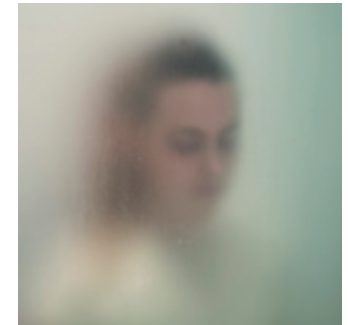
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38 **Robyn HILLS**
born 1963, lives and works in Caloundra QLD
Judy Napangardi Watson, artist 2015
digital print on rag paper

39 **Lisa HOGBEN**
lives and works in Sydney NSW
Abraham - "lost boy" found 2015
digital print

40 **Kelly HUSSEY-SMITH**
born 1982, lives and works in Melbourne VIC
Michelle-Rose Turnbull 2015
inkjet print

47 **Liz LOOKER**
born 1974, lives and works in Mosman Park WA
Eclipse 2015
giclée print

48 **Jon LOVE**
born 1949, lives and works in Sydney NSW
Contemplation 2015
digital print

49 **Jessica MATINO**
born 1979, lives and works in Sydney NSW
Burlesque girls 2013
type C print

41 **Jodie HUTCHINSON**
born 1967, lives and works in Melbourne VIC
#3 Dean 2015
pigment print on cotton rag paper

42 **Lyndal IRONS**
born 1983, lives and works in Sydney NSW
Anna at dawn 2015
pigment print on Hahnemühle paper

43 **Darren JAMES**
born 1983, lives and works in Melbourne VIC
Turning inside out 2015
digital pigment print on cotton rag paper

50 **Rosie McINTYRE**
born 1991, lives and works in Sydney NSW
Sarah 2013
digital print

51 **Sandra MURPHY**
born 1968, lives and works in Coolangatta QLD
Sugar in the cane 2013
digital print on 100% rag paper

52 **Debrah NOVAK**
born 1957, lives and works in Yamba NSW
Portrait of a lady 2014
pigment print on Hahnemühle paper

44 **Camilla JOHANSSON-MERRICK**
born 1985, lives and works in Sydney NSW
Tiny dancer 2015
inkjet print

45 **Ingvar KENNE**
born 1965, lives and works in Sydney NSW
Makharan and Dopheal, Prostitutes, Phnom Krom, Cambodia 2014
type C print

46 **Shea KIRK**
born 1985, lives and works in Melbourne VIC
Twisk 2015
inkjet print

53 **Zofia NOWICKA**
born 1953, lives and works in Melbourne VIC
Man unknown, Venice, 2015 2015
digital print

54 **Jac PRICE**
born 1974, lives and works in Melbourne VIC
The girl on the bus 2015
pigment print on Canson Platine Fibre Rag

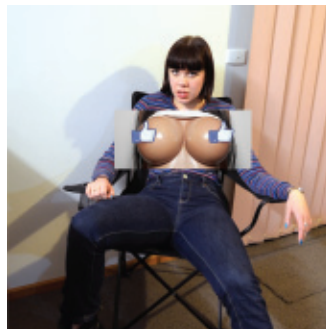
55 **Zorica PURLIJA**
born 1964, lives and works in Sydney NSW
Visitant 2015
archival pigment inkjet print
Courtesy of Sara Roney Gallery



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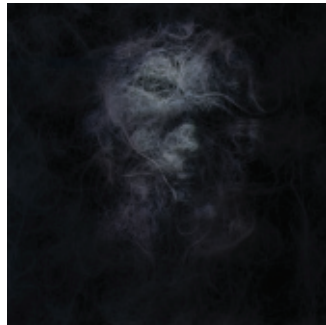
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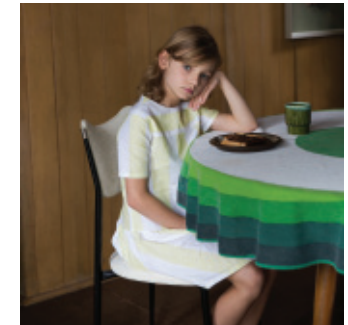
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56 **Joanne SAAD**
born 1969, lives and works in Sydney NSW
Wafa and Uncle Steve 2015
digital print

57 **Karl SCHWERTFEGER**
born 1961, lives and works in Sydney NSW
Lewisham laundry worker, 2015 2015
inkjet print on photo rag

58 **Tia SCOTT**
born 1991, lives and works in Albury NSW
Self portrait with Facebook likes 2015
archival inkjet print on metallic pearl paper,
face mounted to acrylic

65 **Janet TAVENER**
born 1960, lives and works in Sydney NSW
Gin and Hen - Life with Para Willi Syndrome 2015
digital print

66 **Natalie TIRANT**
born 1992, lives and works in Melbourne VIC
Unuttered 2015
type C print

67 **Tobias TITZ**
born 1973, lives and works in Melbourne VIC
Christopher Bates 2014
type C print from Polaroid 665

59 **Samuel SCOUFOS**
born 1979, lives and works in Brisbane QLD
Portrait of a Greek man and son 2015
giclée print

60 **Elise SEARSON**
born 1982, lives and works in Brisbane QLD
Amara 2015
digital print

61 **Laura SEEDS**
born 1991, lives and works in Brisbane QLD
Ellen 2014
hand manipulated inkjet print on
Hahnemühle paper

68 **Craig TUFFIN**
born 1969, lives and works in Northern NSW
Portrait of a Gold Coast surfer 2015
mercurial daguerreotype in handmade leather case
Courtesy of Gold Street Studios

69 **Rhiannon TULLY**
born 1970, lives and works in Perth WA
Heather, 13 2015
archival inkjet print

70 **Frances VALENTINE**
born 1944, lives and works in Melbourne VIC
Piero 2014
pigment print

62 **Laki SIDERIS**
born 1979, lives and works in Melbourne VIC
Witchdoctor 2013
Lambda print

63 **Stuart SPENCE**
born 1960, lives and works in Sydney NSW
Dave Faulkner - the Guru takes tea 2014
digital print on Kodak Endura paper

64 **Cyrus TANG**
born 1969, lives and works in Victoria
Matthew 2014
chromogenic print
Courtesy of ARC ONE Gallery

71 **Linda WACHTEL**
born 1958, lives and works in Melbourne VIC
Dr Jimi and Marysia 2015
inkjet print on cotton rag

72 **Perri WAIN**
born 1961, lives and works in Uki NSW
Dr Jimi and Maya Krasna, at home 2015
digital print

73 **Hilary WALKER**
born 1979, lives and works in Melbourne VIC
Estella 2014
pigment print



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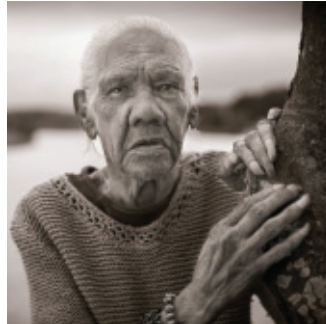
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74 Louise WALPOLE
born 1976, lives and works in Sydney NSW
Molly 2013
giclée print on Ilford Gold Fibre Silk

75 John WATSON
born 1961, lives and works in Melbourne VIC
The Records Officer strives for a moment of beauty #2 2015
pigment print

76 Carrie WEBSTER
born 1964, lives and works in Sydney NSW
The Linchpin 2015
digital print

77 Louise WHELAN
born 1967, lives and works in Avalon NSW
Backstage before the 'Hijab runway' Creativity Unleashed Expo, Parramatta Town Hall 2015 2015
pigment print on cotton rag paper

78 Peter WHYTE
born 1956, lives and works in Hobart TAS
Sculptor Curtis Hore 2015
pigment print

79 Richard WINDEYER
born 1969, lives and works in Bangalow NSW
Yoshi 2014
digital print

80 Fiona WOLF-SYMEONIDES
born 1976, lives and works in Sydney NSW
Michael 2013
digital print

81 William YANG
born 1943, lives and works in Wollli Creek NSW
George Gittoes 2015
digital inkjet print
courtesy of Stills Gallery

82 David YOUNG
born 1957, lives and works in Byron Bay NSW
Aunt Dulcie - Arakwal Elder 2014
digital print

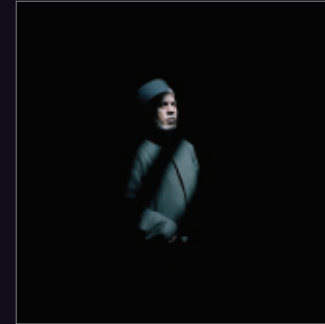
Previous Winners



2005



2006



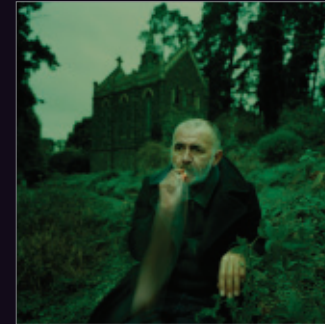
2007



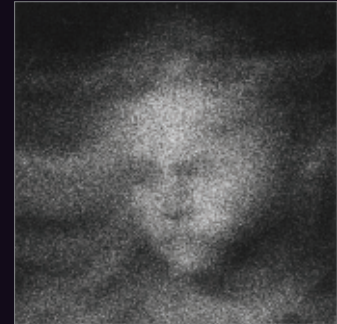
2008



2009



2011



2013

2005 Ella DREYFUS
The Lads: Nadz and Dax (detail)
Judge: Sally McInerney

2006 Siri HAYES
Monty / Sally
Judge: Dr Gene Sherman

2007 George FETTING
Sheik Taj Din al-Hilali, former Mufti of Australia - Lakemba (detail)
Judge: Richard Moore

2008 Emily PORTMANN
The Stone (detail)
Judge: Rex Dupain

2009 Richard O'FARRELL
Savitri (detail)
Judge: Dean Sewell

2011 Tamara DEAN
Damien Skipper (detail)
Judge: Naomi Cass

2013 Trent PARKE
Candid portrait of a woman on a street corner (detail)
Judge: Helen Ennis

2015 olive cotton award for photographic portraiture



Stephen Dupont *Sing-Sing, Goroka, 2011*

Public Programs - Saturday 8 August

2.00pm **Piksa Niugini – Stephen Dupont**

An illustrated talk featuring Stephen Dupont's portraits from Papua New Guinea made over the past decade.

Dupont undertakes environmental portraiture by mixing real documentary and controlled photography. He is interested in showing not only his subjects but the mechanisms of the process, thus calling to attention the role of the photographer in Papuan history.

5.00pm **Official opening with music by Trio Continentale**

5.30pm **Announcement of Awards and Winner**

Stephen Dupont is a photographer and documentary filmmaker whose work has earned him photography's most prestigious prizes, including a Robert Capa Gold Medal citation from the Overseas Press Club of America; a Bayeux War Correspondent's Prize; and first places in the World Press Photo, Pictures of the Year International, the Australian Walkleys and Leica/CCP Documentary Award. In 2007 he was the recipient of the W. Eugene Smith Grant for Humanistic Photography for his ongoing project on Afghanistan. In 2010 he received the Gardner Fellowship at Harvard's Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology. Dupont has twice been an official war artist for the Australian War Memorial with commissions in the Solomon Islands (2013) and Afghanistan (2012). He is a Canon Master and frequently lectures and delivers masterclasses and workshops in Australia and around the world.



FRIENDS

Tweed Regional Gallery &
Margaret Olley Art Centre Inc.



**Arts
NSW**

The Olive Cotton Award is funded by the family of Olive Cotton with additional purchase awards funded by the Friends of Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre Inc. Tweed Regional Gallery is supported by the NSW Government through Arts NSW

ISBN: 978-0-9943333-0-8 | Title: 2015 Olive Cotton Award for photographic portraiture | Date of Publication: July 2015
Publisher: Tweed Regional Gallery | Award Co-ordinator: Anouk Beck | All images are courtesy of the artist unless otherwise stated



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