



2021  
olive cotton award  
for photographic portraiture

16 July - 19 September 2021



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The Olive Cotton Award for photographic portraiture is a \$20,000 biennial national award for excellence in photographic portraiture dedicated to the memory of photographer Olive Cotton. The winning work is acquired for the Gallery's collection. The exhibition is selected from entrants across Australia and is a significant opportunity for photographers living and working in Australia.

The Award was launched in 2005, and is funded by Olive Cotton's family and dedicated to her memory as one of Australia's leading twentieth century photographers. The Award has grown and gained national recognition attracting entries from established and emerging photographers across Australia. The Award boasts a major acquisitive biennial prize of \$20,000, selected by the Award Judge. In addition, the Friends of the Tweed Regional Gallery and Margaret Olley Art Centre Inc. fund \$4,000 for the acquisition of portraits chosen by the Gallery Director for the collection. Visitors to the exhibition may also vote for the 'People's Choice Award' of \$250 for the most popular portrait.

The Gallery thanks art dealer Josef Lebovic and photographer Sally McInerney, Olive Cotton's daughter, for their ongoing support of the Award. Thanks also to the Friends of the Gallery committee for their contributions, both financial and practical, to the Award and opening event.

Front cover:

**D-Mo**  
born 1977  
lives and works Sydney, NSW  
*Vice Versa* (detail) 2021  
Hahnemühle photo rag

Previous spread:

**Gerrit Fokkema**  
born 1954  
lives and works Sydney, NSW  
*Merv In The Long Grass, Dubbo* (detail) 2020  
archival inkjet print

Back cover:

**Paula Mahoney**  
born 1972  
lives and works Melbourne, VIC  
*A backward safari* (detail) 2021  
pigment print

## 2021 Judge: Michael Cook

Michael Cook is considered to be one of Australia's most exciting contemporary photomedia artists. A Brisbane-based artist of Bidjara heritage, Cook's cinematic and psychologically-charged works critically examine current and historic attitudes towards First Nations peoples by restaging colonial-focused histories.

Having worked in commercial photography for over 30 years, Cook transitioned to fine art photography in 2009. His work has been exhibited widely throughout the world including the Museum of Photographic Arts, San Diego, the National Gallery of Victoria, the Musee d'ethnographie de Geneve, Switzerland, National Gallery of Singapore, AAMU Museum of Contemporary Aboriginal Art, The Netherlands, the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco, and The British Museum, London.

Cook's work is held in significant international collections including the British Museum, The Museum of World Cultures, Netherlands, Museum of Contemporary Aboriginal Art, Utrecht, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and the Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Collection, USA, as well as the National Gallery of Australia, Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art, National Gallery of Victoria, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Art Gallery of Western Australia and Tweed Regional Gallery.

## A connection beyond the image

Michael Cook

*The Olive Cotton Award for photographic portraiture* marks an aesthetic pause.

Its occurrence every two years records, in the capture of individuals within the photograph, something of the recent experience of our place and time. When I look back at the last award in 2019 and before the global pandemic, it seems like a long time ago — a period during which we lost our innocence. But that is not the only factor that has shifted the world irrevocably. We are living in diverse times; apart from COVID-19 there is climate change, multiculturalism, the black lives matter movement, gender fluidity, an increasing interest in human rights, the treatment of women, and more. I believe that so many of these issues take us to our identity and the fundamental question of who we are as individuals, as a society, as humans.

These are global conversations that are unfolding powerfully in Australia — with our own characteristic flavour. Amid this groundswell, I believe that an artist can provoke conversations. True art has the ability to challenge the perceptions of its audience, and a photograph has this power.

The connection between the photographer and their subject extends well beyond the push of a shutter. A successful photograph finds the balance of idea, mood, feeling, lighting and positioning, all integral to developing questions in its audience.

And in a photographic portrait an audience should find a connection. Often, and most successfully, this goes beyond the image to convey the subject's personality, giving the viewer another dimension to their experience. It might make us curious to know this person's story, to tease out the why as well as the who.

A portrait can tell so many stories with an expression or gesture, a hand over a face, or two hands meeting. A shadow, a certain object placed within the background may stimulate a thought process for the viewer and suggest how it might have been for that person in that moment. What I am looking for in a portrait is a combination that engages me in that mystery beyond the image; the unanswered questions that allow me to experience the portrait (the individual but also their milieu) in my own way.

An effective portrait may also touch the viewer on a deeper level, taking them into stories from their own history and life experiences, challenging their beliefs and extending understanding. In my view, it doesn't matter if a viewer has a different experience to the photographer, or understands its message in a completely different way. To me, there's nothing better than a viewer looking at one of my photographs and going on their own journey or tangent, somewhere altogether other.

So often portraits may be understood to convey to us how a person looks. However, as recent debates have explored, identity is about so much more than appearance. Conceptual depth in a portrait allows us to extend and connect beyond superficial resemblance. As an artist, part of my drive to make work is in searching for my own identity, trying to connect with that as much as I can. We create a frame for our experiences and mine, as an Aboriginal man — is unusual.

When I left my earlier career as a commercial photographer to become an artist (more than ten years ago), I became aware that the way I work is different to other artists who also use photography, and also to other artists who make work about Indigenous issues. For me, the layering of history that is reflected in the layering of the image lets me tell a complex story — about Australia and the way in which First Nations peoples were disregarded (and worse), but also about the many layers in my own identity. People don't need to know the details of either of those narratives to enjoy the images I make, and I guess I am intrigued by art that works in a similar way — that takes us into an image that also allows us to choreograph our individual journey through it. That quality in a photographic portrait that allows us to engage but also encourages our own explorations is one I have pursued in the judging of this award.

At the outset I noted that the Olive Cotton Award takes the temperature of our time, within what is a micro-snapshot of two years. I think that this year's award makes an even bigger leap than the one we have seen in previous prizes — it may reflect the really rapid change we have had to accommodate across the globe. The exponential growth that we've been through as individuals and artists since 2019 has been huge. I believe that this ability to reflect growth, stimulate the kinds of conversations we need to have to move forward positively, and to challenge an audience to move outside their own comfort zone is an essential ability that artists have. The selection of portraits in this year's award reflect the rapidity of our shift into uncharted waters, and offer us powerful pathways to think differently. The fact that they raise as many questions as they satisfy is to be celebrated.

**Michael Cook**  
28 March 2021



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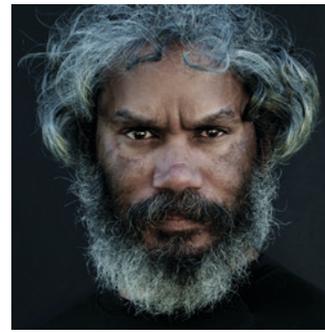
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6\*



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14\*



15\*



7\*



8\*



9\*



16\*



17\*



18\*

1 **Jaka Adamic**  
born 1974  
lives and works Northern Rivers, NSW  
*Adelita* 2021  
pigment print from 4x5 tintype

2 **Riste Andrievski**  
born 1973  
lives and works Wollongong, NSW  
*John McDonald (Everything Art)* 2021  
inkjet print

3 **Karima Asaad**  
born 1988  
lives and works Sydney, NSW  
*Misunderstood* 2019  
digital photographic print

10 **Hamish Cairns**  
born 1981  
lives and works Brisbane, QLD  
*Joseph* 2021  
digital photographic print

11 **Brett Canet-Gibson**  
born 1965  
lives and works Perth, WA  
*Heath* 2020  
digital photographic print

12 **Francis Cloake**  
born 1969  
lives and works Byron Bay, NSW  
*Don't Look Now* 2020  
pigment print

4 **Katie Bennett**  
born 1981  
lives and works Mt Nebo, QLD  
*Makaela* 2020  
inkjet print

5 **Madeline Bishop**  
born 1991  
lives and works Melbourne, VIC  
*Gretel, Ineska and Mischa* 2020  
inkjet print from photographic negative

6 **Paul Blackmore**  
born 1968  
lives and works Byron Bay, NSW  
*Wenuri* 2020  
archival inkjet print

13 **Steph Connell**  
born 1965  
lives and works Currumbin, QLD  
*Ziggy* 2021  
digital print

14 **Rusty Crawshaw**  
born 1987  
lives and works Sydney, NSW  
*The Dengs* 2021  
pigment print

15 **Bob & Rusty Crawshaw**  
born 1949, 1987  
lives and works Canberra, ACT  
and Sydney, NSW  
*The Fates and George* 2021  
pigment print

7 **Jesse Boyd-Reid**  
born 1991  
lives and works Bundjalung Country,  
Mullumbimby, NSW  
*Tess* 2021  
c-type photographic print

8 **Glen Braithwaite**  
born 1970  
lives and works Canberra, ACT  
*Unbroken* 2021  
digital photographic print

9 **Chris Budgeon**  
born 1955  
lives and works Melbourne, VIC  
*Orlando at his Nonna's house* 2021  
archival pigment print from 4x5 colour negative

16 **Rowena Crowe**  
born 1973  
lives and works Wollongong, NSW  
*Self close* 2021  
caffenol silver gelatin print

17 **Gerwyn Davies**  
born 1985  
lives and works Sydney, NSW  
*Float* 2021  
archival inkjet print

18 **Max D'Orsogna**  
born 1989  
lives and works Suffolk Park, NSW  
*Naomi In Our Loungeroom* 2020  
chromogenic print



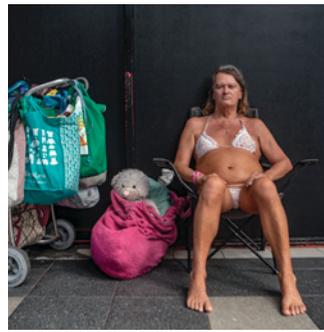
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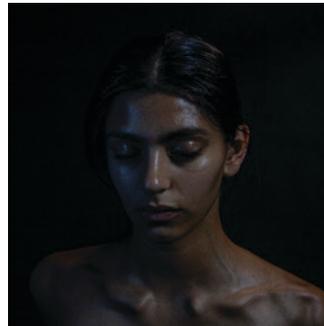
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19 **D-Mo**  
born 1977  
lives and works Sydney, NSW  
*Vice Versa* 2021  
Hahnemühle photo rag

20 **Stephen Dupont**  
born 1967  
lives and works Scarborough, QLD  
*Jimmy* 2021  
digital pigment ink print

21 **Peter Eastway**  
born 1958  
lives and works Sydney, NSW  
*At prayer* 2020  
pigment ink on cotton rag

28 **Kim Guthrie**  
born 1957  
lives and works Sunshine Coast, QLD  
*Princess, Cavill Mall, Surfers Paradise,*  
*29th March* 2021  
giclée print

29 **JK Henshaw**  
born 1964  
lives and works Macedon Ranges, VIC  
*badizo [go walk run]* 2019  
archival ink on archival canvas

30 **Keef Hickey**  
born 1964  
lives and works Perth, WA  
*Motherless Son* 2021  
fine cotton rag paper

22 **Natalie Finney**  
born 1980  
lives and works Melbourne, VIC  
*Analogue games* 2021  
giclée digital print

23 **Gerrit Fokkema**  
born 1954  
lives and works Sydney, NSW  
*Merv In The Long Grass, Dubbo* 2020  
archival inkjet print

24 **Mark Forbes**  
born 1980  
lives and works Black Rock, VIC  
*Bygone* 2019  
c-type print from medium format negative

31 **Tim Hillier**  
born 1976  
lives and works Naarm/Melbourne, VIC  
*Jesse and the outside* 2021  
pigment inkjet print

32 **Naomi Hobson**  
born 1978  
lives and works Coen, QLD  
*Super Hero Boy* 2021  
digital print on cotton rag art paper

33 **Kalyani Holden**  
born 1978  
lives and works Brisbane, QLD  
*Jaquin Zaire* 2020  
digital print

25 **Mark Forbes**  
born 1980  
lives and works Black Rock, VIC  
*Perfect stranger* 2019  
c-type print from medium format negative

26 **Anna Gottlieb**  
born 1970  
lives and works Eltham, VIC  
*My Father* 2019  
digital print

27 **Gary Grealy**  
born 1950  
lives and works Sydney, NSW  
*Artist Lucy Culliton with Cuddles, Emu Chick*  
*and Lacy* 2021  
digital print

34 **Tamsyn Houseman**  
born 2003  
lives and works Sydney, NSW  
*Portrait of Annie* 2021  
digital print

35 **Lyndal Irons**  
born 1983  
lives and works Sydney, NSW  
(on Gadigal/Wangal Land)  
*Daniel Boyd* 2021  
archival pigment photographic print

36 **Suresh Jeanel**  
born 1980  
lives and works Dandenong, VIC  
*Scars of motherhood* 2020  
xerographic print and found photograph



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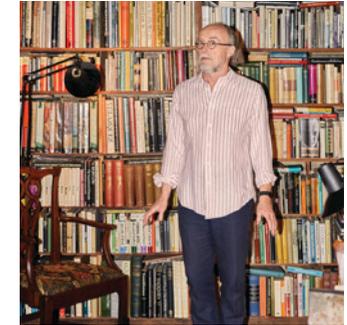
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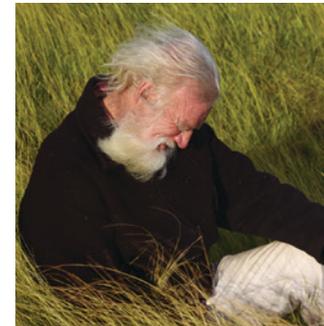
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37 **Camilla Johansson-Merrick**  
born 1985  
lives and works Pambula, NSW  
*The dance*, from the ongoing series  
*About a Boy* 2019  
archival pigment print

40 **Ingvar Kenne**  
born 1965  
lives and works Sydney, NSW  
*Margaret Ellen Burns And Billy, Dog Rescuer, Nullarbor* 2021  
c-type print

43 **Shea Kirk**  
born 1985  
lives and works Melbourne, VIC  
*Hairstory* 2020  
pigment print

38 **Pia Johnson**  
born 1983  
lives and works Dja Dja Wurrung Country,  
Woodend, Macedon Ranges, VIC  
*A View of the Pool* 2020  
archival inkjet print

41 **Ingvar Kenne**  
born 1965  
lives and works Sydney, NSW  
*Reg McDermott, Disability Pensioner, Narramine* 2020  
c-type print

44 **Lucy Knox**  
born 1990  
lives and works Sydney, NSW  
*Rachael and Rebekah, Garden of Eden #1* 2021  
inkjet print on archival paper

39 **Tony Kearney**  
born 1958  
lives and works Port Adelaide, SA  
*Jacob* 2020  
archival ink on photo rag

42 **Bronwyn Kidd**  
born 1969  
lives and works Melbourne, VIC  
*Maminyjama Magnolia Maymuru* 2019  
digital print on Canson platine fibre rag  
c-type print

45 **Sarina Lirosi**  
born 1961  
lives and works Melbourne, VIC  
*Lynn Savery* 2021  
inkjet print

46 **Peta Lumley**  
born 1987  
lives and works Newcastle, Awabakal Country  
*Mater Musa* 2019  
archival pigment print

49 **Judith Martinez Estrada**  
born 1973  
lives and works Katoomba, NSW  
*Absent/Present* 2020  
archival pigment ink, Hahnemühle photo rag

52 **Wendy McDougall**  
born 1961  
lives and works Sydney, NSW  
*Sandy Edwards* 2020  
Hahnemühle photo rag with UV protective  
coating

47 **Paula Mahoney**  
born 1972  
lives and works Melbourne, VIC  
*A backward safari* 2021  
pigment print

50 **Gregory McBean**  
born 1950  
lives and works Sydney, NSW  
*On Turning 70 During A Pandemic* 2021  
inkjet print on archival paper stock

53 **Isabella Moore**  
born 1986  
lives and works Sydney, NSW  
*Bruce Pascoe* 2020  
digital print

48 **Isobel Markus-Dunworth**  
born 1988  
lives and works Sydney, NSW  
*Dad in What Remains of his Kitchen* 2021  
digital pigment print

51 **Mia Mala McDonald**  
born 1982  
lives and works Naarm, VIC  
*Bill Henson on a Sunday afternoon* 2020  
archival digital print

54 **Viki Murray**  
born 1967  
lives and works Eumundi, QLD  
*Two Hearts As One #1* 2021  
digital print



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72 \*

55 Finn Negrello  
born 2001  
lives and works Brisbane, QLD  
*Yaw in Polish* 2021  
digital print

56 Tajette O'Halloran  
born 1980  
lives and works Northern Rivers, NSW  
*Lismore* 2020  
c-type print

57 Glenn Porter  
born 1963  
lives and works Armidale, NSW  
*Professor Adrian Walsh, Uralla* 2020  
giclée print on rag paper

64 Laki Sideris  
born 1966  
lives and works Melbourne, VIC  
*Rocco* 2020  
Lambda c-type print

65 Linelle Stepto  
born 1953  
lives and works Sydney and North Coast, NSW  
*Self Portrait With Animal (rabbit)* 2021  
digital print on archival paper

66 Jacqui Stockdale  
born 1968  
lives and works Melbourne, VIC  
*The Assistants* 2021  
c-type print

58 Cal Power  
born 1995  
lives and works Sydney, NSW  
*A Flamingo, Rat* 2021  
c-type print on Premier metallic paper  
from colour negative

59 Ilana Rose  
lives and works Melbourne, VIC  
*Liam* 2021  
digital print on satin baryta

60 Ilana Rose  
lives and works Melbourne, VIC  
*Sammi* 2020  
digital print on satin baryta

67 Suellen Symons  
born 1955  
lives and works Brewarrina, NSW  
*Mervyn Bishop* 2021  
inkjet digital print on cotton rag

68 Hamish Ta-mé  
born 1969  
lives and works Southern Highlands, NSW  
*Lockdown Flowers* 2020  
inkjet print

69 Craig Tuffin  
born 1969  
lives and works Banora Point, NSW  
*THE SUPERS #2* 2020  
archival pigment print

61 Robin Sellick  
born 1967  
lives and works Sydney, NSW  
*Hugh Sheridan, Darlinghurst* 2021  
inkjet print

62 Russell Shakespeare  
born 1963  
lives and works Currumbin Valley, QLD  
*The Artist Judy Watson* 2021  
photographic print on cotton rag

63 Russell Shakespeare  
born 1963  
lives and works Currumbin Valley, QLD  
*The Artist Michael Zavros* 2021  
photographic print on cotton rag

70 Chelle Wallace  
born 1969  
lives and works Murwillumbah, NSW  
*After Gardening* 2020  
giclée inkjet archival photographic print

71 Clare Weeks  
born 1975  
lives and works Newcastle, NSW  
From the series *Collection* 2021  
digital inkjet print from unique silver  
gelatin photogram

72 Greg Weight  
born 1946  
lives and works Sydney, NSW  
*Harry Highpants with Seated Figure* 2021  
digital print on archival paper



73\* Ilsa Wynne-Hoelscher Kidd  
born 1986  
lives and works Melbourne, VIC  
*I Only Ever Wanted One* 2021  
archival pigment print on photo rag



74 Yiorgos Zafiriou  
born 1971  
lives and works Sydney, NSW  
*Della* 2021  
pigment print on archival paper



75\* Anne Zahalka  
born 1957  
lives and works Sydney, NSW  
*Anne Zahalka with a Colony of Boffins* 2021  
pigment ink on rag paper with plastic

## 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 exhibition at the Australian Centre for Photography in Sydney. She then concentrated on rediscovering and printing her life's work. In 2000 the Art Gallery of NSW showed *Olive Cotton*, a major retrospective of Cotton's work, curated by Helen Ennis, lecturer at the Australian National University, Canberra School of Art.

In 2016–17 Cotton was featured in the National Gallery of Australia's touring exhibition *Max & Olive: The Photographic life of Olive Cotton & Max Dupain* curated by Dr Shaune Lakin.

*Portrait of a Girl* 1931  
Olive Cotton by Max Dupain



## Previous Winners



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



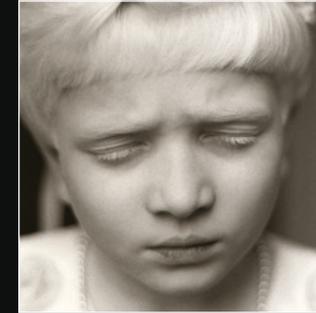
**2006**  
**Siri Hayes**  
*Monty / Sally*  
Judge: Dr Gene Sherman



**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**  
**Natalie Grono**  
*Pandemonium's shadow (detail)*  
Judge: Stephen Dupont



**2017**  
**Justine Varga**  
*Maternal Line (detail)*  
Judge: Dr Shaune Lakin



**2019**  
**Belinda Mason**  
*Taken (detail)*  
Judge: Marian Drew



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**FRIENDS**  
Tweed Regional Gallery &  
Margaret Olley Art Centre Inc.



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& MARGARET OLLEY ART CENTRE | MURWILLUMBAH

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