



2023
olive cotton award
for photographic portraiture

14 July - 24 September 2023



2023
olive cotton award
for photographic portraiture

Acknowledgment of Country

We wish to acknowledge the Ngandowal and Minyungbal speaking people of the Bundjalung Country, in particular the Goodjinburra, Tul-gi-gin and Moorung – Moobah clans, as being the traditional owners and custodians of the land and waters within the Tweed Shire boundaries.

We also acknowledge and respect the Tweed Aboriginal community's right to speak for its Country and to care for its traditional Country in accordance with its lore, customs and traditions.

2023 olive cotton award for photographic portraiture

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 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 \$500 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' committee for their contributions, both financial and practical, to the Award and opening event.

Front cover:

M Ellen Burns b.1983
Tilly Time (detail) 2022
digital print

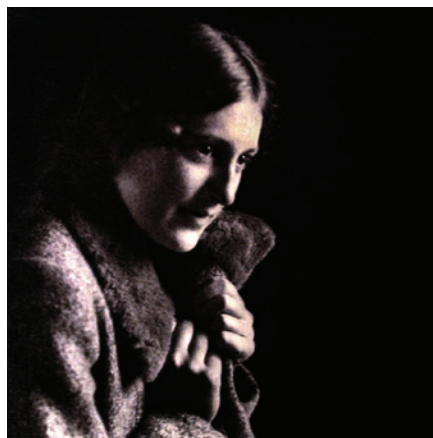
Previous spread:

Sam Ferris b.1985
On the way to inspections (detail) 2022
digital silver gelatin print

Back cover:

Katherine Cordwell
This Is Blak Douglas In Studio (detail) 2022
archival pigment 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 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

2023 Judge: Dr Daniel Mudie Cunningham

Dr Daniel Mudie Cunningham is an independent curator and critic renowned for his work with contemporary Australian artists and collections. He is also a practicing artist whose work over three decades is the subject of a survey exhibition at Wollongong Art Gallery in July 2023.

Previously, he was the Director of Programs and Senior Curator at Carriageworks from 2017–2022. He has held leadership and curatorial roles at Artbank and Hazelhurst Arts Centre, and teaching and research positions at Western Sydney University, where he completed a BA Honours (First Class) in Art History and Criticism in 1997 and a PhD in Cultural Studies in 2004.

Notable recent work at Carriageworks includes solo projects with Reko Rennie, Mel O'Callaghan, Karla Dickens, Dean Cross and Cherine Fahd, among others; curating *The National 2019: New Australian Art*; and initiating *Suspended Moment: The Kathy Cavaliere Fellowship* which partnered Carriageworks with ACCA and Mona by commissioning major new works by Frances Barrett, Sally Rees and Giselle Stanborough. In 2022, *Suspended Moment* was adapted as an exhibition that will tour to eight venues over two years through Museums and Galleries of NSW. Upcoming work includes curating *Cementa24* at Kandos in NSW.

The Afterimage

Dr Daniel Mudie Cunningham

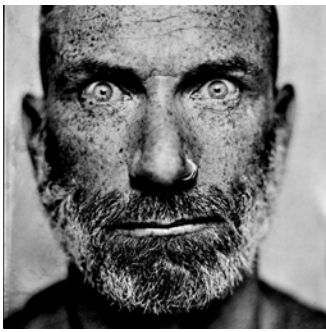
Earlier this year a friend gifted me a tote bag produced by the Centre for Contemporary Photography in Naarm/Melbourne. Printed on black cotton in white type, it reads in bold caps lock: **EVERYTHING EXISTS TO END IN A PHOTOGRAPH.** Any photographer worth their grain of (silver) salt would immediately recognise the source of this quotation: Susan Sontag's seminal book *On Photography* (1977). An essential text in photographic theory, Sontag unpacked the social and ethical implications of photography and how it shapes our perceptions of the world around us. Through her astute words, Sontag argues that photography has the power to both capture and distort reality, and that it can be used as a tool for both artistic expression and social commentary.

On multiple occasions complete strangers have come up to me in public and asked me if I am a photographer. The first time it happened I was completely surprised at the odd question and awkwardly replied, "um yes kind of..." before realising the Sontag bag perched on my shoulder had prompted the query. Which then got me thinking that while I work as an artist mostly using the lens-based medium of video, I haven't ever identified as a photographer, even though I trained as one in my youth. I began as a photographer, but like all of us, will 'end' as a photograph once that inevitable funeral montage is cued in the future. Another heroic philosopher, Roland Barthes, argued in *Camera Lucida* (1980) that photography captures a moment in time that can never be repeated, and in doing so, it also captures the inevitability of death. The photograph is not simply an image, but a trace of the past that is always haunted by the afterlife. The *afterimage*.

The Olive Cotton Award is an opportunity to pay tribute to the power of photography and its life-affirming relationship to portraiture. Each portrait on display is an *afterimage* — pictures that continue to dance in our eyes beyond the moment of exposure because they ignite the imagination and drive conversation. The Olive Cotton Award provides an ongoing snapshot of the shared preoccupations that derive from a complex and ever-shifting world — one that can elicit as much joy as it carried the burdens of troubled times. As a collection of portraits, it documents the present tense — a tense present — which down the track will be an important historical testament to some of our shared histories for generations to come.

Photography has always been a necessary conduit for expressing diverse understandings of identity, social change, and the human condition. The deeply entwined relationship of photography to portraiture and its ever-evolving form is what we see played out in the theatre of imagery comprising the finalist's works in the Olive Cotton Award this year. Sparking conversations about First Nations sovereignty, race, place and migration, sexuality and gender, and mortality and time, among many other hot topics, these images have a lasting impact, exposing something of the intimacy of the photographer to the sitter, and to us, the captive audience. Here and now captured forevermore.

Dr Daniel Mudie Cunningham, 2023



1*



2*



3*



10*



11*



12*



4*



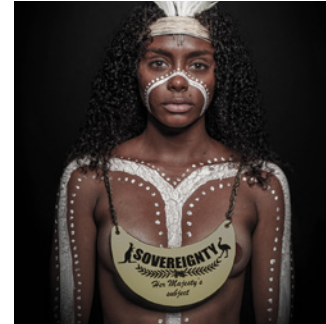
5



6*



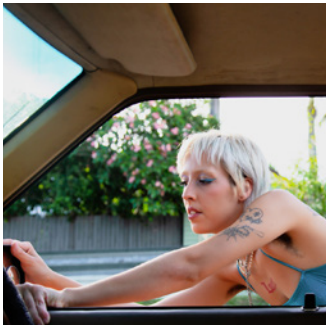
13*



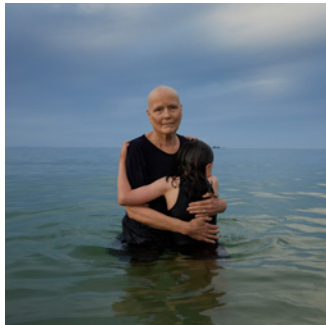
14*



15*



7*



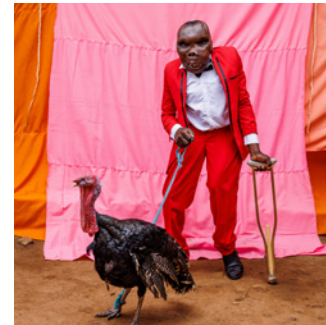
8*



9*



16*



17*



18*

1 **Jaka Adamic** b.1974
lives and works Corndale / Bundjalung Country NSW
Chaos / Portrait of Toby 2021
4x5 Tintype plate

2 **Ron Adams** b.1959
lives and works Sydney / Gadigal Country NSW
Madeleine 1968–2022 (a brief candle in the dark) 2023
digital type c print

3 **Belinda Allen** b.1956
lives and works Bundeena / Dharawal Country NSW
Ensnaced (Sam at Stuart Town) 2023
pigment print on Japanese Kozo paper

10 **M Ellen Burns** b.1983
lives and works Kalgoolie-Boulder / Wangkatja Country WA
Tilly Time 2022
digital print

11 **Isabella Capezio** b.1986
lives and works Naarm (Melbourne) / Wurundjeri and Boon Wurrung Country VIC
To Tunnel through a Mountain 2022
inkjet print

12 **Aaron Chapman** b.1990
lives and works Murwillumbah / Bundjalung Country NSW
Daughter 2023
archival inkjet print, perler beads

4 **Riste Andrievski** b.1973
lives and works Wollongong / Dharawal Country NSW
William Yang 2021
inkjet print

5 **Kate Atkinson** b.1982
lives and works Arrawarra / Gumbaynggirr Country NSW
Emily at the shop 2022
archival pigment print

6 **Sarah Barker** b.1960
lives and works Gadigal Country NSW
Eureka 2023
inkjet print

13 **Kristopher Cook** b.1983
lives and works Ballina / Bundjalung Country NSW
Young smoke 2023
digital print on canvas

14 **Luther Cora** b.1977
lives and works Nerang / Yugambeh language region QLD
Not My Queen 2023
digital print on photographic paper

15 **Katherine Cordwell**
lives and works Byron Bay / Bundjalung Country NSW
This Is Blak Douglas In Studio 2022
archival pigment print on cotton rag

7 **Dane Beesley** b.1978
lives and works Meanjin (Brisbane) / Yuggera and Turrbal Country QLD
Home 2022
giclée print

8 **Paul Blackmore** b.1968
lives and works Byron Bay / Bundjalung Country NSW
Sharon Marion 2022
inkjet print

9 **Fiona Bowring** b.1961
lives and works Canberra / Ngambri and Ngunawal Country ACT
Nancy, Ravelling 2022
digital print on photo rag

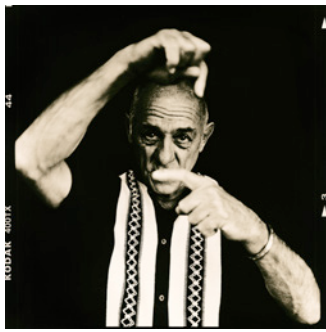
16 **Teva Cosic** b.1994
lives and works Naarm (Melbourne) / Wurundjeri and Boon Wurrung Country VIC
Untitled (julens ögonbryn) 2022
archival inkjet print

17 **David Cossini** b.1979
lives and works Salamander Bay / Worimi Country NSW
Ugandan Ssebabi 2022
archival pigment print on fine art paper

18 **Tarisha Currie, Naomi Felton and Donna Munjee**
live and work Tjuntjuntjara Aboriginal Community / Spinifex Country WA
Kungka Manḱur(p)a: We are Spinifex Rangers 2023
digital print



19 *



20



21 *



28 *



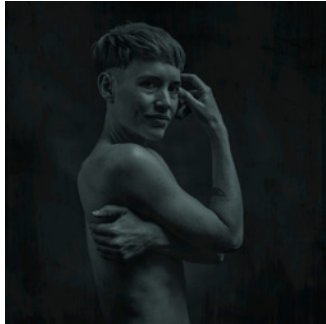
29 *



30



22



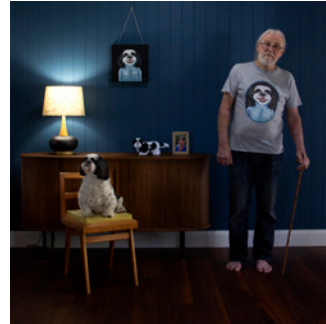
23 *



24 *



31 *



32 *



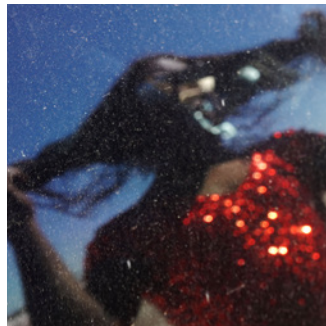
33 *



25 *



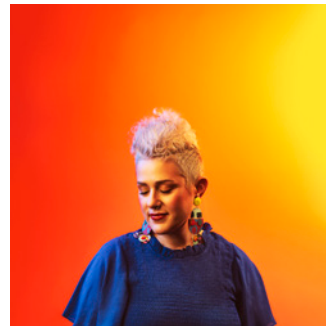
26 *



27 *



34 *



35



36 *

19 **Gerwyn Davies** b.1985
lives and works Sydney / Gadigal Country NSW
Replica 2023
archival pigment print
Represented by Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane;
Michael Reid Gallery, Sydney/ Berlin

20 **Stephen Dupont** b.1967
lives and works Scarborough / Darug Country
NSW
*You should take it this way! 2022: A portrait of
David Field* 2022
silver gelatin lithium print – edition 1 of 4

21 **Danielle Edwards** b.1978
lives and works Tweed Heads / Bundjalung
Country NSW
Blurred Vision 2023
print

28 **Gary Grealy** b.1950
lives and works Sydney / Gadigal Country NSW
Jude Roe_Artist 2021
digital print

29 **Natalie Grono** b.1977
lives and works Lennox Head / Bundjalung
Country NSW
A lost world 2022
digital print

30 **Gabrielle Hall-Iomax** b.1993
lives and works Canberra / Ngambri and
Ngunnawal Country ACT
Unbodied 2 (self-portrait) 2023
digital print on photo rag

22 **Sam Ferris** b.1985
lives and works Sydney / Gadigal Country NSW
On the way to inspections 2022
silver gelatin digital print

23 **Andrea Francolini** b.1971
lives and works Sydney / Gadigal Country NSW
I am who I am 2022
C-type print

24 **Jenny Fraser** b.1971
lives and works between Bundjalung Country
(NSW/SEQ) and Bama Country (FNQ)
still standing on my ancestral massacre country
2023
acrylic print

31 **Liz Ham** b.1975
lives and works Sydney / Gadigal Country NSW
Rosie Rivette Free Bleeding, Marrickville 2023
archival inkjet print

32 **Nina Hanley** b.1974
lives and works Canungra / Bundjalung Country
QLD
The Dogfather 2022
C-type print

33 **Simon Harsent** b.1965
lives and works Sydney/ Gadigal Country NSW
John Olsen 2022
digital print

25 **James Gardiner** b.1973
lives and works Erskineville / Gadigal Country
NSW
Melencolia22 2023
giclée print on archival metal paper
edition 1 of 3

26 **Juno Gomes** b.1944
lives and works Cheero Point / Darkinyung
Country NSW
The Hon Linda Burney : The Turning Point 2023
duotone print on handmade fine art paper
Represented by Art Atrium, Josef Lebovic Sydney,
Fireworks Gallery Brisbane, Rebecca Hossack London

27 **Timothy Georgeson** b.1969
lives and works Sydney / Gadigal Country NSW
URRITJARA 2021
archival pigment print
Represented by Olsen Gallery

34 **Joshua Hoe** b.1992
lives and works Canley Vale / Darug Country
NSW
Father of Tritons I 2023
digital print on cotton rag

35 **Glenn Hunt**
lives and works Meanjin (Brisbane) / Yuggera
and Turrbal Country QLD
Skin in the Game (Katie Noonan) 2022
C-type print

36 **Jamie James** b.1968
lives and works Gadigal and
Bundjalung Country NSW
*Rob and Dinner, Tyalgum NSW, Bundjalung
Country* 2022
inkjet print



37*



38*



39*



46*



47*



48*



40*



41*



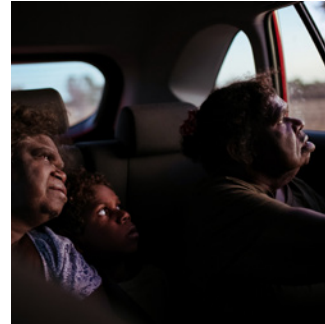
42*



49*



50*



51*



43*



44*



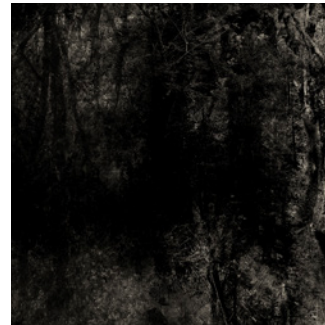
45*



52*



53*



54*

37 **Mark Kimber** b.1953
lives and works Tarndanya (Adelaide) / Kaurna Country SA
Dash at 18 2023
pigment print

38 **Shea Kirk**
lives and works in Naarm (Melbourne) / Wurundjeri and Boon Wurrung Country VIC
Sophie (left view) 2021
pigment print

39 **Shyarn (Scurvy) Koenitz** b.1996
lives and works Boorloo (Perth) / Whadjuk Noongar Country WA
Bare Bones (Fragments) 2023
print

46 **Judith Martinez Estrada** b.1973
lives and works Katoomba / Dharug and Gundungurra Country NSW
The Expedition — Vanishing Point 2022
archival pigment ink on photo rag
Represented by Lost Bear Gallery

47 **Nikki McLennan** b.1974
lives and works Newtown / Gadigal Country NSW
Wendy Sharpe's Sink 2023
digital print

48 **Ferne Millen** b.1978
lives and works Jan Juc / Wadawurrung Country VIC
No Labels Required 2023
C-type print

40 **Joy Mei-En Lai** b.1977
lives and works Sydney / Gadigal Country NSW
Cruising 2022
pigment print on cotton rag

41 **Dave Laslett, Tina Flanagan and Jennifer Eadie**
lives and works Parachilna / Adnyamathanha Country SA, Tina Flanagan and Jennifer Eadie live and work Port Adelaide / Karuna Country SA
Still Standing Strong 2023
digital fine art metallic pearl print

42 **Kellie Leczinska** b.1982
lives and works Sydney / Gadigal Country NSW
The Multifaceted Sue Cato AM (backdrop by Marty Baptist) 2023
digital print

49 **Sarah Mills** b.1991
lives and works Bunbury / Wardandi Noongar Country WA
Mother 2022
photographic print

50 **Magnolia Minton Sparke** b.1999
lives and works in Sydney / Gadigal Country NSW
Gigi in her Park 2022
120 Portra photograph digitally printed on museum rag

51 **Isabella Moore** b.1986
lives and works Sydney / Gadigal Country NSW
Miriam Charlie goes home to Borroloola 2022
digital photograph

43 **Tracy Lees** b.1962
lives and works Bendigo / Dja Dja Wurrung and the Taungurung Country VIC
Summertime 2022
digital print

44 **Tess Lehman** b.1985
lives and works Newcastle / Awabakal Country NSW
Hanging out 2022
photographic pigment print

45 **Brent Lukey** b.1971
lives and works Naarm (Melbourne) / Wurundjeri and Boon Wurrung Country VIC
Professor Dr Marcia Langton AO 2022
archival fibre-based print

52 **Nikky Morgan-Smith** b.1979
lives and works Bellingen / Gumbainggir Country NSW
Dialectic 2022
digital print and graphite on archival paper

53 **Michelle Newnan** b.1972
lives and works in Naarm (Melbourne) / Wurundjeri and Boon Wurrung Country VIC
Guns 2023
digital photo

54 **Marcus O'Donnell** b.1960
lives and works Naarm (Melbourne) / Wurundjeri and Boon Wurrung Country VIC
Self-portrait — remembrance of things past and omens of things to come 2023
pigment print on cotton rag



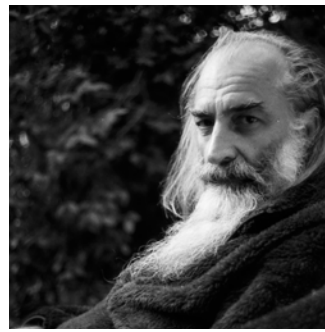
55 *



56 *



57 *



64 *



65 *



66 *



58 *



59 *



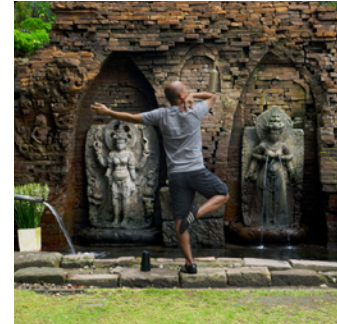
60



67 *



68 *



69 *



61 *



62 *



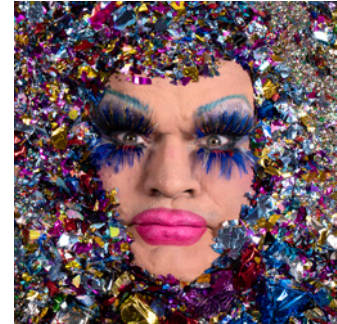
63



70



71 *



72

55 **Susan Papazian** b.1968
lives and works Sydney / Gadigal Country NSW
Unresolved 2022
digital fine art print

58 **Emily Portmann** b.1982
lives and works Sydney / Gadigal Country NSW
Assemble, Action One 2023
archival pigment print

61 **Cassandra Scott-Finn** b.1984
lives and works Byron Bay / Bundjalung Country NSW
Gulpilil Family on Gulpilil Homelands After David's Bapuru, November, 2022 2022
inkjet print on art paper

56 **Sonia Payes** b.1956
lives and works Naarm (Melbourne) / Wurundjeri and Boon Wurrung Country VIC
Such stuff as dreams are made on 2023
C-type print
Represented by Scott Livesey Galleries

59 **Vedika Rampal** b.1998
lives and works in Sydney / Gadigal Country NSW
My mother dreams of Ghalib... 2021
pigment print
Represented by Dominik Mersch Gallery

62 **Jacqui Stockdale** b.1968 and **Eryca Green** b.1966
live and work in Naarm (Melbourne) / Wurundjeri and Boon Wurrung Country VIC
Between Us 2023
C-type print
Jacqui Stockdale is represented by Olsen Gallery

57 **Viki Petherbridge** b.1954
lives and works Naarm (Melbourne) / Wurundjeri and Boon Wurrung Country VIC
While you were sleeping 2023
photographic print

60 **Eugenia Raskopoulos** b.1959
lives and works Sydney / Gadigal Country NSW
homage to Stellar 2023
pigment print on photo rag
Represented by Kronenberg Mais Wright

63 **Virginia Szaraz** b.1961
lives and works in Asquith / Gadigal Country NSW
Valentine 2023
digital print

64 **Matthew Thorne** b.1993
lives and works Tarrndanya (Adelaide) / Kaurra Country SA & Athens, Greece
Warren Ellis in his garden in Paris 2022
c-type hand print
Represented by GAGProjects / Greenaway Art Gallery

67 **Craig Tuffin** b.1969
lives and works Banora Point / Bundjalung Country NSW
Play Through (Mervyn Bishop) 2023
daguerreotype

70 **Julie Williams** b.1961
lives and works Vale of Clwydd / Wiradjuri Country NSW
SHOT 2023
selenium toned gelatin silver print

65 **Lisa Tomasetti**
lives and works Sydney / Gadigal Country NSW
The Manifest 2022
C-type print
Represented by James MAKIN Gallery, Melbourne

68 **Chelle Wallace** b.1969
lives and works Murwillumbah / Bundjalung Country NSW
June 2022
archival inkjet on cotton rag

71 **Meng-Yu Yan** b.1992
lives and works in Sydney / Gadigal Country NSW
Another Ruin VI 2023
photographic inkjet print

66 **Garry Trinh** b.1975
lives and works Sydney / Gadigal Country NSW
The Me / See 2023
inkjet print on paper

69 **Val Wens** b.1974
lives and works Castlemaine / Jaara and Taungurung Country VIC
Senja di Panjalu (Dusk in Panjalu) 2023
pigment on silver rag paper
Represented by Kronenberg Mais Wright

72 **Yiorgos Zafiriou** b.1971
lives and works Beverly Hills / Eora Nation NSW
Della in flutter (after David W) 2023
C-type print

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



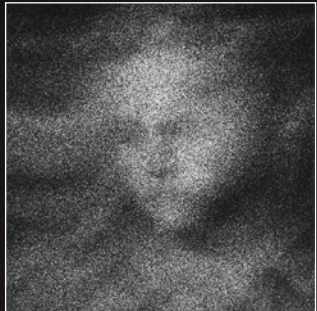
2008
Emily Portmann
The Stone (detail)
Judge: Rex Dupain



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



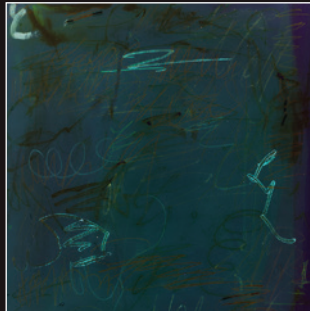
2011
Tamara Dean
Damien Skipper (detail)
Judge: Naomi Cass



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



2021
D-Mo
Vice Versa (detail)
Judge: Michael Cook



ISBN: 978-0-9943333-9-1 | Title: 2023 Olive Cotton Award for photographic portraiture
Date of Publication: June 2023 | Publisher: Tweed Regional Gallery | Award Co-ordinator: Meredith Cusack
All images are courtesy of the artist unless otherwise stated.



FRIENDS
Tweed Regional Gallery &
Margaret Olley Art Centre Inc.



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 & Margaret Olley Art Centre is supported by the NSW Government through Create NSW.

 **TWEED REGIONAL GALLERY
& MARGARET OLLEY ART CENTRE**

artgallery.tweed.nsw.gov.au | [f](https://www.facebook.com/tweedregionalgallery) [i](https://www.instagram.com/tweedregionalgallery) [tweedregionalgallery](https://www.tweedregionalgallery.com.au)
Open Wed – Sun, 10am – 5pm | 2 Mistral Road, Murwillumbah South NSW