

Media Release  
– For Immediate Release –



Tuesday 31 March

**SHEDDING LIGHT ON  
MELBOURNE'S HISTORY**

An exhibition of images captured by world-renowned photographer Maggie Diaz will be on show at the Drum Theatre from April to June.

The stunning collection – the largest Ms Diaz has exhibited – will feature a range of eye catching photographs taken over more than 40 years.

Images on show range from haunting photos of Chicago's housing projects in the 1950s to Melbourne's battlers in the 1990s.

Ms Diaz established herself as one of Melbourne's leading photographers in the 1960s and has become famous for her flair for night photography and use of available light to capture the essence of Melbourne's arts and wider community.

After spending decades behind the lens, Ms Diaz finds it difficult to nominating any single image as her favourite. Though she admits there are a few that have made an imprint on her memory.

**"The Real Australian"** is an image I took of an old guy in a pub in Fitzroy in the 1990s and I love it because it 'harmonises' and it has a timeless quality," Ms Diaz said.

*"I loved him because he's managed to survive for quite a number of years and found a peculiar sense of well-being in a minimalist way. He didn't have a nasty streak in him, and he was quite happy to have me interested in him for the photograph. He was just sitting there when I wandered into the bar."*

*"I love the detail...his belt buckle and the stain on his jacket. The sign says 'Out of Order' (on the telephone) but if you look closely it also says 'bad luck'."*

Another interesting tale lay behind Ms Diaz's image **Botticelli Girl** (attached).

"When I was photographing a model in a tunnel in Chicago in the 1950s, this bunch of gypsies came down the stairs and a young girl appeared," Diaz said. "She just looked like a painting. She is my Botticelli Girl. I (still) wonder who she was."

**CONTINUES**

While age is beginning to place some limitations on her photographic expeditions, Ms Diaz still parks herself behind the lens whenever she's able.

"I'm always seeing photos that I want to take, but I'm not so often in the position to take them," she said.

"The physical constraints are my enemy at this time, but I will never stop taking pictures. I have a tree outside my door that I want to capture in so many different ways. I am never bored."

The exhibition's opening night is 16 April from 6-8pm and will feature a live performance by Veronica Gilmer, a Spanish dancer who is featured in the collection, along with local guitarist, Ramon Polec. Ms Diaz and Gwen De Lacy (curator) will host a talk at the Drum from 2.30pm on Saturday 2 May.

Bookings essential: phone 9771 6666.

**What:** *Into the Light* – a photographic exhibition by Maggie Diaz

**Where:** The Drum Theatre, 226 Lonsdale St, Dandenong. Ph 9771 6666

**When:** 17 April-11 June; exhibition open 10am-5pm, Monday-Saturday

**FOR MEDIA INFORMATION AND PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES:**

**Leigh Rogers 9239 5104**

**Kylie Sprague 9239 5359 or 0417 475 870**

2 images below:

Botticelli Girl, c1954

The Real Australian, 1990s



