

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

mga
monash gallery of art

Ponch Hawkes: more seeing is not understanding

to be opened by Dr Melissa Miles
Lecturer, Department of Theory of Art and Design
Faculty of Art and Design, Monash University
3.00pm Saturday 11 September 2010
exhibition dates: 09 September–24 October 2010

*“The power of these photographs lies in their
ambiguities, their silences and what they withhold.”*



Ponch HAWKES
Untitled IV from the series *Seeing is not understanding* 2009
archival pigment print on cotton paper
courtesy of the artist and Chrysalis Gallery

MGA's is proud to present *More seeing is not understanding* by **acclaimed Melbourne photographer Ponch Hawkes**.

In this exhibition Hawkes presents a series of photographs that draw on her memories of chance encounters and ordinary yet arresting moments. Hawkes reconstructed seventeen mysterious, nocturnal scenes and photographed them in a way that encourages us to try and make sense of them.

Dr Melissa Miles, Lecturer, Department of Theory of Art and Design, Monash University states of the photographs: “Cleverly, Hawkes creates a series of openings in these photographs and beckons us to climb in. The stories take place in familiar surrounds, but the unresolved narratives invite speculation.”

Shaune Lakin, Director of MGA has said of Hawkes: “Ponch Hawkes is one of Melbourne's most important photographers. She is part of a great generation of feminist photographers that includes Micky Allan and the late Sue Ford. Since the 1970s Hawkes has documented Australia's social and political culture and in doing so has linked several generations of Melbourne's vibrant creative communities.”

The exhibition runs alongside MGA's \$25 000 William and Winifred Bowness Photography Prize.

Ponch Hawkes is currently exhibiting in **three major exhibitions** in Melbourne: *Timelines: photography and time*, NGV International, St Kilda Rd until Oct 30, 2010; *Basil Sellers Art Prize 2010*, Ian Potter Museum of Art, Melbourne University until 7 November 2010; *20 years: bold, black, brilliant. Ilbijerri Theatre Company: a retrospective*, Melbourne Museum, Bunjilaka until 7 November 2010.

>Listen up: artist talk with Ponch Hawkes
2.00pm Saturday 18 September 2010
Bookings essential T: 03 8544 0500

Media enquiries:
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MGA is the City of Monash's premier cultural facility

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Tue-Fri: 10am-5pm, Sat-Sun: 12pm-5pm, Mon/public holidays: closed

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