

MEDIA RELEASE

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mga
monash gallery of art

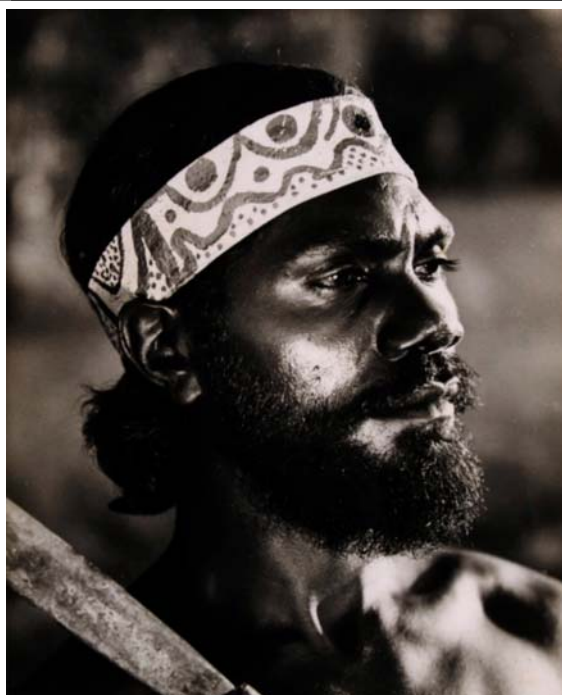
Black & white: documenting Indigenous Australia

>12 February- 3 May 2009

> to be opened by Bruce Haigh
Former Australian diplomat and anti-apartheid activist
6.30PM Friday 13 February 2009

Exhibition includes photographs by:

Charles Bayliss, Max Dupain, David Moore, Axel Poignant,
Rennie Ellis, Gordon Bennett, Brenda L. Croft, and
Ricky Maynard.



Philip J. Pike
Untitled [portrait of Robert Tudawali as Marbuck from *Jeddah*] c.1954
gelatin silver print

Monash Gallery of Art, City of Monash Collection

Donated by Richard King through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program 2008

Monash Gallery of Art's latest exhibition *Black & white: documenting Indigenous Australia* surveys the history of photographers' efforts to document Indigenous Australians. Drawing primarily on material in the MGA Collection, this exhibition features 35 black-and-white photographs by some of Australia's best-known photographers, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous.

As we mark the anniversary of the Prime Minister's apology to the Stolen Generation, it is a good time to look at the ways Indigenous Australians have been depicted in the history of Australian photography.

Since the early days of the camera in this country Indigenous Australians have regularly been subjects for the country's photographers. These photographs have often informed our view of the lives and culture of Indigenous Australians.

Documentary photographs are generally black-and-white. Black-and-white photographs often present the world in a basic – black-and-white – way. Documentary photographs have often reduced the complex world and culture of Indigenous Australians in this way. *Black & white* presents a striking survey of black-and-white photographs of Indigenous Australians, including the efforts of Indigenous photographers to respond to the ways their people have been presented throughout the history of Australian photography.

Stephen Zagala, MGA Curator says "*rather than rendering Australia's colonial history in stark, black-and-white terms, the prints in this exhibition lead the viewer through a grey history of uncertain encounters and ambiguous relationships.*"

Listen up: Curator's talk with Stephen Zagala
3pm Thursday 5 March 2009
Bookings essential: ph 9562 1569

Media enquiries:

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

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