

MEDIA RELEASE

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monash gallery of art

Community spirit Numurkah, Lakes and Roses: Michael Coyne

Monash Gallery of Art
17 November 2006 – 25 February 2007

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Michael COYNE
Sunday sleep-in (detail) 2006
from the series **Numurkah, Lakes and Roses**
type C photograph
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The Monash Gallery of Art (MGA) is proud to be the first venue to present the new series of work by internationally renowned photographer Michael Coyne who has captured wars, revolutions and significant international events in a career spanning over 30 years.

After documenting people living in villages in different countries around the world, Coyne was interested in capturing the essence of an Australian country town that was big enough to be independent yet small enough for everyone to know their neighbour. After significant research, Coyne decided to document Numurkah, a town with a population of 5,000 in northern Victoria.

In **Numurkah, Lakes and Roses**, Coyne explores the multifaceted concept of 'community' with its sense of place and belonging, identity, participation, fellowship and its gatherings and traditional events.

From the main street to the family lounge room, from the debutante and B&S balls to the sporting ground and the agricultural show, Coyne has captured a candid portrait of daily life in this rural town nestled between Shepparton and Cobram.

The MGA will also present Coyne's series from the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games, the **Five Ringed Circus**. Coyne was commissioned by Kodak international to document the Games. A member of the prestigious Black Star photo agency in New York, Coyne chose to focus on the 'invisible people' who were integral to the success of the Games, such as the trainers, entertainers, volunteers, spectators and cheer squads. These quirky, unusual and innovative images allow the viewer to experience another dimension from the predictable visual interpretation of the 'athlete as hero'.

Jane Scott, Director of the MGA said, "The natural warmth and good humour expressed in both series highlights Coyne's skill as a leading photographer to capture the essence of 'ordinary' people in extraordinary ways."

About Michael Coyne

Internationally renowned photographer, Michael Coyne, has captured wars, revolutions and significant international events in a career spanning over 30 years. He spent eight years in the Middle East documenting the rise of Islamic fundamentalism and the Iranian revolution. He was also selected to document the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games for Kodak International. Michael has exhibited widely in Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong and the USA. His photographs are also held in numerous national and international collections. Michael has been contracted to the prestigious New York agency, Black Star for almost 20 years.

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