

Tableau a deux

Peter Solness

Thursday, 4 May - Friday, 19 May

Price List & Work Statements

1. *Bosko and Honey, Kuranda QLD*

Bosko and Honey are an innovative ukulele duo based in Kuranda, Far North Queensland. The direction this portrait session took was influenced by the theatrical, irreverent and sometimes subversive nature of their work.

Bosko and Honey pre-imagined this scene. So what's with the hole in the ground? The wheelbarrow of ukuleles? Says Bosko, *"This image represents an ambiguity or duality in the way some things can be interpreted. A lot of our song writing is like that."*

One of their signature songs is called Another Day in Paradise, but the lyrics soon make it clear that paradise has another more dysfunctional side. Asked how their relationship feeds their creative lives? Bosko said: *"Let's just say we are partners in crime"*.

**Pigment inkjet print on cotton rag paper, 2016, edition 1 of 7, 60 x 90 cm, \$1,350 + \$450 framed*

2. *Buck Richardson and Eve Stafford, Kuranda QLD*

Buck and Eve have lived in the house they built together by hand in the Kuranda rainforest since 1980. They have each pursued artistic careers including screen-printing, photography, graphic art, performing, writing and publishing, community arts and cultural development. Their daily creative rituals start in the mornings, when they take a cup of tea back to bed to have a *"board meeting"* to plan their day.

At lunchtimes or at sundown they might do a joint or composite drawing, each adding a stroke or colour, often to challenge or confound the other's predictability. At sundown they also try to fit in a 10 minute stream-of-consciousness writing exercise, choosing a word at random from a book, and writing as fast as possible without punctuation or judgement. They also read aloud to each other - a poem, article or book. *"We end up discussing the writing style or the elements of the story. It stimulates our ideas and helps with our own creativity."*

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3. Sally Miller and Jesse Hamilton, Adelaide SA

Sally has a theatre background and met Jesse when she was studying in Canada. Jesse is a guitarist, percussionist, singer and songwriter. Shortly after they met they started playing music together. *"We sort of had this instant dialogue, which is hard to describe. He would say something and then I would say 'yeh' and my idea would make him come up with another idea"* says Sally.

Two years ago Sally started making puppets and the couple started getting more serious about incorporating puppets into their performance. Says Jesse, *"I'm not really an actor but I like the sculptural elements of puppet making and I enjoy the opportunity to compliment the creative ideas that Sally comes up with."*

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4. Lizzy and Zaimon Vilmanis, Cairns QLD

Zaimon and Lizzie are co-directors of Prying Eye. *"We call ourselves creative minds rather than label ourselves simply as dancers. We don't know what the final outcomes of creative development will be when we set out as we are committed to the process of revealing. It's like frost forming on a window frame. We make little sections and eventually they all intertwine."* Zaimon adds, *"The process we use in the studio actually strengthens our relationship because it improves our communication pathways. We have developed simple rules that open up enough space for each of us to have an opinion and to share ideas, without shutting the other person down."* I photographed the pair developing new work during a two-week creative development residency with the New Move Network (a dedicated program supporting contemporary dance) at the Centre of Contemporary Arts in Cairns.

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5. Lino Alvarez and Kim Deacon, Hill End NSW

Lino and Kim epitomize the supportive creative couple. Moving to Hill End twenty years ago from Newtown in inner Sydney, they began making cooking pots and dinnerware, which expanded into their successful enterprise, La Paloma Pottery. Their ceramic dishes became popular and are used in fine restaurants around the country. Kim is also a performing harpist, singer and former 'soapie star', appearing on iconic Aussie TV shows such as *Prisoner* in the 1970's. Lino is a master cook and has recently released a book, *The Hill End Table* (Brandl & Schlesinger) a celebration of Lino's passion for food, ceramics and art.

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6. Bill Moseley and Genevieve Carroll, Hill End NSW

During my artist residency in Hill End I was inspired by the creative partnership of artists Bill Moseley and Genevieve Carroll who traded a 1919 restored ferry on Sydney Harbour for life in this 1870's gold rush town.

As the couple explained, *"We brought the sea to Hill End so to speak and instead of the sea a wild garden now cradles Bill's boats and is a constant source of artistic inspiration."*

Bill is a photographer and master printmaker who practices antiquarian printmaking and Genevieve is a multi-media artist working in textiles, sculpture and paint. *"Very slowly we have built up a lovely way to live that is an artistic emporium, simple and something that we both love."*

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8. Danelle Bergstrom and John Firth-Smith, Hill End NSW

I photographed renowned artists Danelle and John amongst gum trees not far from their home in Hill End. This is a favourite place for Danelle. She will head out in an old Ute to paint, draw and explore, then head back to the studio to create her exquisite canvases, based on sensory memories and experiences. Danelle paints the land via mnemonic references and imaginative conjurings, rather than literally *en plain air*.

"I use the landscape as a metaphor to express personal emotions. My heart is in Hill End but the images could represent Australian bush anywhere." Says Danelle. Apart from her celebrated landscape paintings, Danelle is also in demand for her portrait work.

John is an abstract painter who has been exhibiting since 1963. His works are included in all national gallery collections in Australia as well as internationally. He is also an accumulator of unwanted stuff, including early 5 string banjos from 100 years ago and more. *"I have spent a lifetime on waterways and ocean and at present I am in dry dock on the slipway at Hill End."* John explains.

For the photo session John happened to have an old seaman's pea jacket and captain's cap, which added a playful and theatrical element to the portrait.

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9. Evelyn Roth and John Davis, Maslin Beach SA

John and Evelyn live in a colourful house overlooking the waters of Gulf St Vincent in South Australia. Evelyn, who turns 80 this year, is a storyteller who works with fabrics and textiles to explore issues around recycling and the environment. She is known for her large quirky inflatables (air sculptures) that feature each year at the WOMADelaide music festival.

John 58 calls himself a nature artist and “*nature freak*”. He collaborates with Evelyn by applying his drawing and drafting skills to paint animals and other designs onto Evelyn’s creations.

Evelyn also likes to knit with giant needles. “*You can recycle all kinds of fibres, synthetics, wools and other cast-offs by using large needles,*” Evelyn explains. John adds, “*We are like a comedy duo. Evelyn’s the funny one and I’m the straight one. Evelyn is the performance artist and I’m the quiet little wallflower.*”

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10. Theo Tremblay and Paloma Ramos, Cairns QLD

Master printer Theo Tremblay is a pioneer of collaborative printmaking and publishing, mentoring Aboriginal and Zenadh Kes (Torres Strait) artists in a range of print mediums. He specialises in etching, lithography, relief printing, monoprint and screenprinting mostly at the Editions Tremblay NFP (No Fixed Press) print workshop, housed in the Canopy Art Centre complex in Cairns. Born in the USA, baseball is in his cultural psyche.

Spanish born Paloma Ramos studied ceramics in Adelaide, then sculpture at the Australian National University, Canberra graduating with a BA in Fine Arts. She’s the Manager of Canopy Art Centre, which is dedicated to showing the works of Far North Queensland Indigenous artists. She’s also an environmental activist. Theo and Paloma met in Darwin in 1989.

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11. Kristy and Ricky Beresford, owners of The Flying Monkey Café, Cairns QLD

Kristy and Ricky are good souls. They have created a unique community hub in downtown Cairns, using art, music and good coffee as a way of bringing people together. I was working on the postproduction of this photo when I felt something emotional about the way the image had rendered the couple, especially the expression on Ricky’s face and the way he was looking at Kristy. Enhanced by the chiaroscuro effect of light painting, where the human face glows and looks almost saintly against the darkened background, I felt I could almost see the love that Ricky had for Kristy - and the camera had revealed that love. I sent the photo to Kristy the following morning and her response confirmed what I was feeling.

“Your photo encapsulated the love of the café and the love of us. It brought tears to my eyes.”

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