

MAGGIE DIAZ PHOTOGRAPHY PRIZE FOR WOMEN



Melbourne Botanical Gardens 1960s

\$5000 Photography Prize (non acquisitive)
\$1000 People's Choice Award

To Enter: <http://maggiediazprize.com>

- **We are seeking entries from women of all ages, backgrounds and career levels**
- **Entries *should* use available light**
- **The Winner announced at the opening of Maggie Diaz Projects - 3 Sept 2015**

This prize celebrates the work of long-time Melbourne resident and photographer, Maggie Diaz, a trailblazer for Australian women photographers.

Maggie's career started when she won a photography prize in Chicago in the 1950s. By giving her name to this prize Maggie hopes to encourage other women photographers 'to keep at it!'

Diaz arrived in Melbourne alone and on a one-way ticket in 1961 and soon established herself as one of our leading commercial photographers. No small feat for a time when women were placed firmly in front of the camera, prompting The Age newspaper of 1964 to report that 'A series of photographs which form part of the interior design of the new 3AW studios in the Southern Cross Plaza are the work of a woman.'

Diaz soon became recognised for her use of available light and her love of capturing Melbourne's artistic and everyday life. She exhibited with well-known contemporaries Wolfgang Sievers and Mark Strizic whilst also working commercially for Clemenger Advertising Agency. Diaz went on to capture the essence of Melbourne's artistic and wider community over four decades.

Now aged 90, Diaz's work: most of which had been hidden away in boxes and drawers her entire career, has now exhibited widely with the collaboration of her curator Gwen de Lacy. She has appeared on TV and radio arts programs, and has been recognised as a national treasure in Victorian parliament. The National Gallery of Australia, National Gallery of Victoria, and National Library of Australia hold collections of her work. The State Gallery of Victoria holds her entire photographic archive.

Maggie's career started when she won a photography prize in Chicago in the 1950s. By giving her name to this prize, says Gwen De Lacy, we are honouring her survival as a female commercial artist.

'Maggie has always encouraged other women photographers 'to just keep at it!' Gwen De Lacy.

I had been through some terrible times in my life; I worked in a steel mill as a teenager during the WWII and then factories, a bakery, as a domestic help and a dancer in a magic show. By my early 20s I knew that I wanted to live a creative existence. I was a little psychotic in those days and it was lucky I survived at all! Photography was something I found that I could earn an income from and this has been my life.

Photography kept me from being lazy. It gave me a reason to go out; my imagination was wonderful and even though I made a mess out of a lot of things, photography made me feel that I could be sensitive and intelligent. I'd be wandering the streets taking photos of people and I'd be stopped and asked the question: "Who do you work for?" I'd say, "Myself!" Of course people just thought I was being comical or absurd.

Maggie Diaz, May 2011

All shortlisted entries will be exhibited as part of **Maggie Diaz Projects** comprising this competition, a series of works taken by her in and around St Kilda in the 1960s and an installation celebrating 50 years of Maggie's work. A panel of photographers and photographic professionals will select the winner.

For further information please contact: Kylie Greer 0423 225 182 or <mailto:kylie@brightspace.com.au>

The Prize is sponsored by **GUILTY FILMS**. <http://guiltycontent>

MAGGIE DIAZ PROJECTS: <http://www.brightspace.com.au/exhibitions/maggie-diaz-projects/>

MAGGIE DIAZ WEBSITE: <http://maggiediaz.com>



Self-portrait 1960s



Beach Boys 1960s