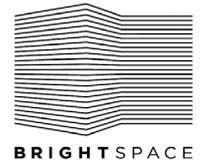


# Photo by MARTIN KANTOR

Media Release: 16 March 2017

He caught  
people  
slightly  
wrong, but  
incredibly  
right.



## BOOK LAUNCH & EXHIBITION

to be launched by Maudie Palmer AO

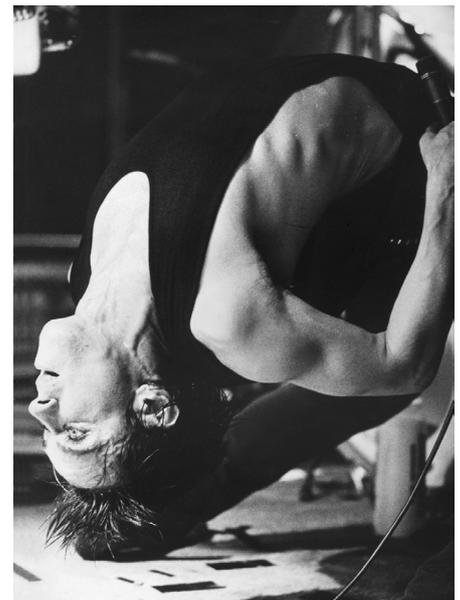
**21 APRIL 2017** (7-10pm)

EXHIBITION: 21 April - 13 May

**BRIGHTSPACE 8 Martin St, St Kilda**

Contact: Kylie Greer 0423 225 182

For nigh on 20 years **Martin Kantor** cut a swathe through Australian photographic portraiture, finding remarkable ways to capture his subjects in a unique and creative fashion. This book and exhibition illustrate that rare image-maker who sought to capture the very psyche of his subjects with results that are at times sublimely beautiful, and at others unnervingly honest. The 86 photos featured in both book and exhibition are portraits Kantor took between the late 1970s and 2002, predominantly featuring the then-burgeoning but now well known identities in the field of Australian culture from the iconic 1980s and 90s - the artists, gallerists, musicians, politicians, and other well known subjects, including: **Howard Arkley, David Larwill, Bob Hawke, Jana Wendt, Molly Meldrum, Dame Elisabeth Murdoch, Mirka Mora, Iggy Pop, Paul Kelly, Split Enz, Nick Cave, Rowland S. Howard, , Grace Jones, Mark E. Smith,** and more....



Iggy Pop, Palais Theatre 1983

“A man of extraordinary appetites, Martin Kantor (1960–2015) achieved legendary status amongst both his peers and his audience. Armed with intelligence, wit, curiosity and sometimes overwhelming energy, Kantor approached his photography with an emotional intensity that exhilarated those around him. This monograph of his photographic work is a much-needed tribute to an artist whose work ranged from photojournalism for *The Australian*, to intimate portraiture for such magazines as *Tension* and *World Art* and included an impressive rock’n’roll phase. Beleaguered by an intensely addictive personality, Kantor cut a larger-than-life figure in both cultural and personal terms. One of his favourite songs was Iggy Pop’s ‘Lust for Life.’ No anthem could be more apt.” (Ashley Crawford – text excerpt, “Photo by Martin Kantor”).

An early subject of Martin’s was a young **Jana Wendt**:

“I no longer recall how Martin persuaded me to pose for him against the wall of my parents’ small townhouse, a short walk away from his family home. I do remember the seriousness of purpose with which he approached the set up and the shot. The chair, moved from my parents’ dining room, would become an incongruous element in his frame. Later in the alchemist’s den of the darkroom, Martin bleached the wall until the contrast between the painted white bricks, and the mortar holding them together made a gritty background for a bolshie girl.”



Jana Wendt, late 1970’s

Text for “Photo by Martin Kantor” is by Ashley Crawford & Richard Guilliat. Both writers worked alongside Martin at the Australian Newspaper as cadets. **Ashley Crawford** is a freelance cultural critic and arts journalist and author. **Richard Guilliat** is a Walkley Award-winning journalist.



*Photo by Martin Kantor* is published by **Hardie Grant Books** & available in all good book shops.



Bill Kelty & Bob Hawke



Grace Jones



Paul Kelly, USA, 1986



Split Enz



Dame Elisabeth Murdoch



Howard Arkley

## Art by Subjects

21 April - 13 May

Alongside the exhibition of Kantor's photographic portraits is a second exhibition of the artworks produced by the visual artists who feature in the former. Where possible, most of the artworks were produced during the period Martin documented them – during the 1980s-90s, for magazines such as Tension and World Art, so the exhibition is predominantly an historical archive of what was happening during this richly iconic period of Australian culture, and we can see why and how the artists' careers developed into the significant place they have in the Australian art world today.

Apart from those listed above, works included are also by: the late Leonard French and Robert Rooney, John Nixon, Jenny Watson, Tony Clark, Mike Parr, Imants Tillers, Sally Smart, the 'original' ROAR artists, Philip Brophy, Brett Colquhoun, Brent Harris, Peter Tyndall, Lindy Lee, John Young, Peter Walsh, Vivian Shark-Lewitt, Maria Kozic, Steig Persson, eX de Medici, Jennifer Turpin, Dale Frank, Joan Letcher, Kim Westcott, Adam Cullen, James Smeaton, Charles Burns and US artist Jenny Holzer. Richard Lowenstein's cult film, "Dogs In Space" will also be



MIRKA MORA

