Bick State

THE CAUTIONARY TALES OF ANGELA CASEY



WORDS ANNA HALIPILIAS PHOTOGRAPHS ANGELA CASEY

Angela Casey is no stranger to the dark underbelly of human nature. During her 2017 artist residency with QVMAG, Casey fashioned a showcase of photography that not only evoked thoughts about the world around us, but also enticed our imaginations, calling into question our identity, our purpose and our depravities.

In viewing Casey's collection it is not difficult to see why QVMAG was excited to welcome her back for her third artist residency, following partnerships in 1998 and 2011. Casey's first show with QVMAG was Urban Alleyways—Series II, an exhibition that celebrated the emerging artist and sparked an ongoing affiliation

with the institution. Casey has earned national acclaim for her 26 years of creative practice, winning the prestigious Linden Postcard Show Award in 2004. She has also undertaken many artist residencies and exhibited her collections at an array of respected galleries.

During Casey's 2017 QVMAG residency, with the assistance of Natural Sciences Curator David Maynard, Visual Arts and Design Curator Ashleigh Whatling and Registrar Jai Paterson, the artist spent five days musing with items from the Museum's Natural Sciences Collection. 'It was an enjoyable and rich experience,' she said, revisiting 'specimens that sparked my interest in birds and insects when I was a child.' The artist used specimens as subjects in

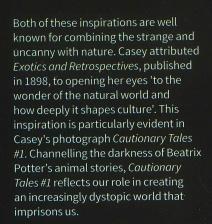
her photographs, creating telling images of cultural and social identity.

As a visual artist, Casey predominantly works with photography, despite vast experience with other mediums. In these photographs, the Launceston-born visionary hints at her intimate knowledge of the Tasmanian landscape, eliciting nostalgia for the simplicity of the past. Her use of native and endemic birds signifies the human presence and these act as cultural signs for the viewer.

Casey drew inspiration from many sources for this collection, including *Exotics and Retrospectives* by Greek author Lafcadio Hearn (1850-1904) and the Tasmanian Gothic themes of *The Golden Age* written by Melbourne playwright Louis Nowra (b. 1950).







Also influenced by 16th and 17th century Dutch painters such as Adriaen van Utrecht and Edwaert Collier, Casey uses a painterly effect known as Chiaroscuro to balance the light and darkness in her photographs. Casey's use of black, the auditory colour of

silence, provokes thought within our world of noise. Her narratives seem to emerge from the abyss. Passion for visual art 'is in my blood', she said. 'I have always enjoyed exploring dreamy and philosophical ideas visually, reimagining the world...asking myself "what if?" '

Angela Casey's artist residency with QVMAG has produced a collection of photographs that hint at Gothicism hidden within the depths of the Tasmanian wilderness. This glimpse into Casey's imagination not only inspires us to reflect on times past, but also evokes critical thought for Tasmania's future. Angela Casey offers an important reminder of the wonders of the natural world, and its vital influence in shaping our identity.

PAGE 6 Artifice 2015. C-type print.

PAGE 7 I Think of You Often 2017. C-type print

ABOVE The Future of Light No.2 2017. C-type print. Fisher's Ghost Award 2017, finalist.

I FFT The Melody Lingers On 2016, C-type print.

RIGHT Mirror 2018. C-type print.

