

# WILLIAM YANG

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## HANDS

## WILLIAM YANG

### BIOGRAPHY

One of few Australian artists to have a long-term dialogue with the public, William Yang is internationally renowned for his photographic and performance works. Born in Mareeba, North Queensland in 1943, William studied architecture at The University of Queensland before relocating to Sydney in 1969. After working as a playwright with an experimental theatre company, he turned his hand to photography more seriously in 1974.

William's premier exhibition, *Sydneyphiles* (1977), documented Sydney's celebrity and gay party scene and polarised viewers with its graphic and striking imagery. Since then, William has become highly regarded for his honest portraiture, sublime landscapes and reflective examinations of Chinese-Australian cultures.

William has held numerous exhibitions of his photographs throughout Asia, Australia, Europe and North America. His work is represented in the following public collections: National Gallery of Australia, National Library of Australia, National Portrait Gallery, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Queensland Art Gallery/GoMA, State Library of New South Wales, Museum of Contemporary Art, Cairns Regional Gallery, The University of Queensland, Higashigawa-cho Municipal Gallery, Hokkaido, Japan and Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography, Japan.

Since 1989, William's other major vehicle of expression has been live performance. His photographs serve as bookmarks and illustrations to his melodious, poetic monologues. Many of William's performance works have toured across Australia and the world; *Sadness* was recreated as a multi-award winning motion picture in 1999.

William was awarded International Photographer of the Year at the Higashigawa-cho International Photographic Festival, Japan in 1993. He received an Honorary Doctorate of Letters from The University of Queensland in 1998 and was awarded the H.C. Coombs Creative Arts Fellowship by the Australian National University in 2007.

William continues to explore themes of history, self and identity. He was commissioned to create a new performance piece, *My Generation*, for the opening of the National Portrait Gallery in 2008. His work was prominently featured in Queensland Art Gallery's *The China Project* in 2009 and will be included in The University of Queensland Art Museum's *National Self Portrait Prize 2009*. William lives and works in Sydney, travelling often to Queensland and China.

### SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

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| 2011 | <i>Hands</i> , Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane<br><i>Old New Borrowed Blue</i> , Stills Gallery, Sydney   |
| 2009 | <i>My Uncle's Murder and Other Stories</i> , Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane<br><i>Life Lines</i> (part of <i>The China Project</i> ), Queensland Art Gallery/Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane |
| 2008 | <i>Claiming China</i> , Australian Centre for Photography, Sydney; Monash Gallery of Art, Melbourne<br><i>Miscellaneous Obsessions 2</i> , Helen Maxwell Gallery, Canberra                      |
| 2007 | <i>Breathing the Rarefied Air of Canberra</i> , Helen Maxwell Gallery, Canberra   |

- 2006 *William Yang: Selected Photographs 1968–2003*, Mackay Regional Gallery, Mackay; Bathurst Regional Gallery, New South Wales; Manning Regional Gallery, New South Wales; Port Hastings Regional Art Gallery, New South Wales; Bendigo Art Gallery, Victoria; Logan Art Gallery, Queensland; National Wool Museum, Geelong, Victoria; Gold Coast City Art Gallery, Queensland; Albury Regional Gallery, New South Wales; Mossman Art Gallery, New South Wales; Wollongong City Gallery, New South Wales; Cairns Regional Gallery, Queensland  
*Enngonia*, Rhur Museum, Mineralien-Museum, Essen, Germany
- 2001 *Australian Chinese*, Gallery 4A, Sydney; Luna Theatre, Brussels, Belgium; National Portrait Gallery, Canberra; Ballarat Fine Art Gallery, Victoria  
*Miscellaneous Obsessions*, Stills Gallery, Sydney; Adelaide Festival Centre, South Australia
- 2000 *Images*, Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane; Grafton Regional Gallery, Grafton, New South Wales
- 1998 *Diaries*, State Library of New South Wales, Sydney
- 1997 *Friends of Dorothy*, Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery, Sydney  
*Stolen Moments*, Photofeis, Edinburgh
- 1995 *Land and Sea*, Canberra Civic Centre; George Gallery, Melbourne; Barry Stern Gallery, Sydney  
*Written Works*, Barry Stern Gallery, Sydney; Darwin Entertainment Centre Gallery, Northern Territory; Perth Institute of Contemporary Art, Western Australia; Salamanca Arts Centre, Hobart, Tasmania  
*Patrick White*, Barry Stern Gallery, Sydney
- 1994 *Sydney Photographed*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney
- 1993 *From Bondi to Ularu*, Higashikawa Arts Centre, Hokkaido, Japan
- 1991 *Australian Faces and Places*, Ordos Museum, Yi League, Inner Mongolia, China
- 1988 *Living Together*, New South Wales Bicentennial Exhibition, Sydney
- 1984 *Sydney Diary*, Hogarth Galleries, Sydney
- 1977 *Sydneyphiles*, Australian Centre for Photography, Sydney

#### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2010 *New 2010: Selected Recent Acquisitions*, The University of Queensland Art Museum, Brisbane  
*Up Close: Carol Jerrems with Larry Clark, Nan Goldin and William Yang*, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne  
*Multiplicities: Self Portraits from the Collection*, The University of Queensland Art Museum, Brisbane  
*Love's Body: Art in the age of AIDS*, Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography, Japan
- 2009 *A Chinese Legacy*, The University of Queensland, Brisbane  
*The University of Queensland National Artists' Self-Portrait Prize*, The University of Queensland, Brisbane  
*Character*, Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane

- 2008 *Men Like Me*, Midsumma Festival, Melbourne
- 2007 *Queensland: Sunshine State*, Campbelltown Art Gallery, Sydney  
*National Photographic Portrait Prize*, National Portrait Gallery, Canberra  
*Reveries: Photography & Mortality*, National Portrait Gallery, Canberra; The University of Queensland Art Museum, Brisbane; Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery, Victoria
- 2006 *Australian Photographic Portrait Prize*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
- 2005 *Australian Photographic Portrait Prize*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney  
*Points of view: Australian photography 1985–95*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney  
*Art and About*, Sydney  
*In a New Light: Australian Photography 1930s–2000*, National Library of Australia, Canberra
- 2004 *Jia (Family, House, Home)*, Hong Kong International Arts Festival, Hong Kong  
*Home*, Chinese Arts Centre, Manchester, England; and various UK galleries  
*Art and About*, Sydney
- 2003 *POL: Portrait of a Generation*, National Portrait Gallery, Canberra  
*Synergies*, ANU, Drill Hall, Canberra  
*Hung, Drawn and Quartered*, Tin Sheds, Sydney  
*JIA*, Gallery 4A, Sydney
- 2002 *Imaging Identity and Place*, Grafton Regional Gallery, NSW; QUT Art Museum, Brisbane; Goulburn Regional Art Gallery, NSW; Manly Art Gallery and Museum, NSW; Orange Regional Art Gallery, NSW; Bendigo Art Gallery, Vic; Albury Art Gallery, NSW; Tweed River Regional Art Gallery, NSW; Campbelltown City Art Gallery, NSW; Gold Coast City Art Gallery, Bundall, Qld; Tamworth City Gallery, NSW
- 2001 *Brownies and Blondies*, Aeroplastics Gallery, Brussels
- 2000 *Complicity*, Australian Centre for Photography, Sydney  
*Visualising AIDS: Images in Art and Design*, Ivan Dougherty Gallery, Sydney  
*A Long Life*, Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane  
*Ecstasy*, Wessel + O'Connor Gallery, New York, NY, USA  
*Exposure*, Wemyss Gallery, Sydney  
*Mirror with a Memory*, National Portrait Gallery, Canberra  
*World Without End*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney  
*Federation*, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra  
*Surrender*, Aeroplastics Gallery, Brussels  
*Brownies and Blondies*, Torch Gallery, Amsterdam
- 1998 *On the Edge: Australian Photographers of the Seventies*, San Diego Museum of Art, San Diego, CA, USA

- Waterproof*, Centra Cultural de Belem, Lisboa, Portugal
- Close Relationships*, Australian Centre for Photography, Sydney
- 1997 *Missing*, Il Ponte Contemporanea, Rome
- 1994 *AustralAsian Exhibition*, Hong Kong (sponsored by the Australian Consulate General, South China Morning Post and Qantas)
- Art in the Age of AIDS*, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
- +*Positive: Artists Addressing AIDS*, Cambelltown City Art Gallery, Sydney
- 1993 *Personal Fictions: Art of This World*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney
- Mardi Gras*, Barry Stern Gallery, Sydney
- A View From Australia*, Australia Week Exhibition, Beijing, China
- MONOLOGUES WITH SLIDES**
- 2008 *China*, Stables Theatre, Sydney
- Shadows*, USA tour, Marylands, Cedar Rapids, Minneapolis, Chicago, Boston, Hanover
- China*, Stavanger, Bergen, Norway; Kunsten Festival, Brussels, Belgium; Alkantara Festival, Lisbon, Portugal; Theater Der Welt, Halle, Germany; Orego Arts Festival, Dunedin, New Zealand, Nelson Arts Festival, New Zealand
- My Generation*, National Portrait Gallery, Canberra
- 2007 *China*, Performance Space at CarriageWorks, Sydney; OzAsia Festival, Adelaide; Melbourne International Festival, Melbourne
- 2006 *Shadows*, Under The Radar festival, New York, NY, USA; Illawarra Performing Arts Centre, Wollongong, New South Wales; Glen Street Theatre, Sydney; Canberra Theatre Centre, ACT; Judith Wright Centre, Brisbane; Caloundra Cultural Centre, Queensland; Darwin Entertainment Centre, Northern Territory; Tanks Art Centre, Cairns
- Objects For Meditation*, Singapore. Melbourne Festival, Melbourne
- China, development stage
- 2005 *From the Inside Out*, Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre, New South Wales
- Objects For Meditation*, Sydney Opera House, Sydney; Kunsten Festival, Brussels, Belgium; River Festival, Brisbane, also Oslo, Norway; Rotterdam, The Netherlands; Lyon, France; Reunion Islands
- 2004 *From the Inside Out*, Australian Centre for Photography, Sydney
- Sadness, Blood Links and Friends of Dorothy*, Romaeuropa Festival, Rome, Italy
- 2003 Romaeuropa Festival, Rome, London, Strasbourg, Dublin, Philadelphia
- Shadows*, Calgary, Vancouver, Toronto and Montréal, Canada
- The Journeys of William Yang* (Performance retrospective: *Shadows, Blood Links, Friends of Dorothy and Sadness*), Belvoir Street Theatre, Sydney
- Blood Links*, Singapore International Arts Festival, Singapore

- 2002 *Shadows*, Georges Pompidou Centre, Paris France; Festival d'Automne, Paris, France  
*Shadows*, Sydney Festival, New South Wales; Perth Festival, Western Australia; Adelaide Festival, South Australia; Bergen International Festival, Bergen, Norway  
*Friends of Dorothy*, Midsumma Festival, Melbourne; *It's Queer Up North Festival*, Manchester, England  
*Blood Links*, Houston, USA, Theaterformen, Hannover and Braunschweig, Spielstand 02, Frankfurt, Germany, Strasbourg, France, Bite 02, London, Theater Spektakel, Zurich, De Keuze van de Schouwburg, Rotterdam, Artsaustralia Berlin 02, Berlin, 4th China Shanghai International Arts Festival, Shanghai, Asia Society and Snug Harbour, New York
- 2001 *Friends of Dorothy*, High Performance Rodeo Festival, Calgary  
*Blood Links*, Six Stages Festival, Toronto, Canada; Hero Festival, Auckland, New Zealand; Taranaki Festival, New Plymouth, New Zealand; Kunsten Festival, Brussels, Belgium; Spoleto Festival, Charleston, USA; Festival d'Automne, Paris, France
- 2000 *The North*, Culturgest Festival, Lisboa, Portugal  
*Blood Links*, Little Asia Festival, Hong Kong and Taipei; Restless Gravity Festival, Swansea, St Donats, Bangor, Aberystwyth, Wales; Brisbane
- 1999 *The North*, International Festival of Arts and Ideas, New Haven, Connecticut, USA  
*Blood Links*, Performance Space, Sydney  
*Friends of Dorothy*, FEAST Festival, Adelaide
- 1998 *The North* toured Perth, Albany, Bunbury, Karratha, Broome (all WA); Alice Springs and Darwin (NT); Cairns, Townsville, Mackay (all Qld); Lismore, NSW; Geelong, Vic; Launceston and Hobart (Tasmania)  
*Friends of Dorothy*, Performance Space, Sydney
- 1997 *The North* toured Brisbane; Adelaide; Canada; London; Germany; New Zealand  
*Sadness* toured Vancouver, Canada; Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen, Scotland
- 1996 *Sadness*, queerupnorth1996, Manchester, Liverpool, Institute of Contemporary Arts, London (all England)  
*The North*, National Festival of Australian Theatre, Canberra; Melbourne Festival; Belvoir Street Theatre, Sydney
- 1995 *The Fabulous Trifle*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney  
*Sadness* toured New Zealand; North Queensland; Darwin; Perth; Geelong; Hobart; Albury; Katoomba; London; Manchester; Minneapolis
- 1994 *Sadness*, Hong Kong Fringe Festival; Adelaide Festival of the Arts; New Zealand International Festival with seasons, Auckland; Brisbane
- 1993 *Sadness*, Asian Theatre Season, Sydney; Melbourne International Festival; National Festival of Australian Theatre, Canberra
- 1992 *Sadness*, Belvoir Street Theatre, Sydney

- 1990 *China Diary*, Belvoir Street Theatre, Sydney; Modern Image Makers Festival, Melbourne
- 1989 *The Face of Buddha*, Belvoir Street Theatre, Sydney  
 Excerpt from *The Face of Buddha*, Writers in Recital, Perspecta Readings, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney; Spoleto Fringe Festival, Melbourne

#### COLLABORATIONS AND WORKSHOPS

- 2006 Collaborated with Kate Champion, choreographer, with *Snapshots*  
 Collaborated with Kate Shearer of Jigsaw Children's Theatre with *Emma's Dynasty*
- 2005 *Cluster*, Adelaide  
 Conducted two week story telling workshop for performers at Reunion Island
- 2004 Directed *Flash Blak*, performed by Merv Bishop for Message Sticks Festival  
 Worked with Cultural Diversity Cluster group, research, at Drama Department, Flinders University, Adelaide
- 2001 *Sadness*, Margaret Meade Touring Film Festival, USA and international
- 2000 *Sadness* screened at gay film festivals in London, Boston, Hong Kong, Toronto, New Zealand, Turin, and at mainstream film festivals in Tel-Aviv, Canada (Hot Docs), Amsterdam, Australia (Doco 2000), Singapore, Switzerland  
*Four Sites in Wales*, collaborative work with Mike Pearson, Video
- 1999 Collaborative work with Edwin Lung, British-Chinese choreographer, in England  
 The film *Sadness*, adapted and directed by Tony Ayres, screened at gay film festivals in New York; San Francisco; Los Angeles; Austin; Montréal; Chicago; Amsterdam; Washington D.C.; Seattle, and at mainstream film festivals in Amsterdam; Hawaii; Mumbai, India; Montréal; New York; Brisbane; Melbourne  
*Sadness* broadcast by SBS TV in the *Masterpiece* series
- 1990 Commissioned by ABC TV Drama to write *The Wives of Kwong*, a mini-series about Chinese in Australia
- 1971 *Childhead's Doll*
- 1969–1971 Playwright, Performance Syndicate, Sydney: Plays included *Orestes*; *10,000 Miles Away*

#### FILM, PERFORMANCE, TELEVISION AND THEATRE

- 2008 *6x6*, a collaboration with Indigenous artists, Moree, NSW
- 2007 Wrote *Emma's Dynasty* for Jigsaw Childrens Theatre, Canberra  
 Collaborated with Kate Champion on *The Age I'm In*
- 2004–05 Directed *Flash Blak*, performed by Merv Bishop for Message Sticks Fest  
 Worked with Cultural Diversity Cluster group, research, with Drama Department, Flinders University
- 2001 *Sadness*, Margaret Meade Touring Film Festival, USA and international

- 2000 *Sadness* screened at gay film festivals in London, Boston, Hong Kong, Toronto, New Zealand, Turin, and at mainstream film festivals in Tel-Aviv, Canada (Hot Docs), Amsterdam, Australia (Doco 2000), Singapore, Switzerland
- 1999 The film *Sadness*, adapted and directed by Tony Ayres, screened at gay film festivals in New York; San Francisco; Los Angeles; Austin; Montréal; and at mainstream film festivals in Amsterdam; Hawaii; Mumbai, India; Montréal
- Sadness* broadcast by SBS TV in the Masterpiece series
- 1996 *The Chinese Diaspora, Stage One*, a collaborative work with Edwin Lung, the British-Chinese choreographer, in England
- 1990 Commissioned by ABC TV Drama to write *The Wives of Kwong*, a mini-series about Chinese in Australia
- 1969–71 Playwright, Performance Syndicate, Sydney: Plays included *Orestes*; *10,000 Miles Away*; *Childhead's Doll*

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

- King, Natalie. *Up Close: Carol Jerrems with Larry Clark, Nan Goldin and William Yang*, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Schwartz City, Melbourne, 2010
- Lo, Jacqueline. 'William Yang: Ghostly Inventories' in Turner, Caroline and Williams, David. *Recovering Lives*, Research School of Humanities and School of Art Gallery, The Australian National University, Canberra, 2008
- Lo, Jacqueline. 'Ghostly Inventories' in Yang, William. *My Uncle's Murder*, Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane, 2009
- William Yang: Selected Photographs 1968–2003*, Wollongong City Gallery, Wollongong, 2003
- Yang, William. *Australian Chinese: William Yang*, National Portrait Gallery, Canberra, 2001
- Yang, William. *China*, Currency Press, Sydney, 2008
- Yang, William. *Diaries: A retrospective exhibition: 25 years of social, personal and landscape photography*, State Library of New South Wales, Sydney, 1998
- Yang, William. *Friends of Dorothy*, Pan Macmillan Australia, Sydney, 1997
- Yang, William. *My Uncle's Murder*, Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane, 2009
- Yang, William. *Patrick White: The Late Years*, Pan Macmillan Australia, Sydney, 1995
- Yang, William. *Sadness*, Allen and Unwin, Sydney, 1996
- Yang, William. *Starting Again: A Time in the Life of William Yang*, Heinemann, Melbourne, 1989
- Yang, William. *Sydney Diary: 1974–1984*, James Fraser, Sydney, 1984
- Yang, William. 'William Yang: Life Lines' in *The China Project*, Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane,
- Yang, William and Pip, Chris. *Bodywork: Confessions from the Funeral Trade*, Hale and Iremonger, Sydney, 1990



## EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

- 1998 Hon. Doctorate of Letters, University of Queensland, Brisbane  
1968 Bachelor of Arts (Architecture), University of Queensland, Brisbane

## AWARDS

- 2008 *Emma's Dynasty* wins Canberra Times Critics Award  
2007 H. C. Coombs Creative Arts Fellowship, Australian National University, Canberra  
2004 *The Journeys of William Yang*, performance retrospective, nominated for Best Special Event, Helpmann Awards, Australia  
2003 *Sadness*, winner, special prize, Guangzhou Documentary Film Festival, China  
2000 Finalist award, New York Expo, 2000  
2000–2002 *Sadness* the film, written and performed by William Yang, adapted and directed by Tony Ayres, voted Most Popular film at the Brisbane International Film Festival, Brisbane  
Winner of AWGIE for best screenplay by the Australian Writers Guild  
*Sadness* bestowed the Cinemedia Erwin Rado award for the Best Australian Short Film, Melbourne Film Festival, Melbourne  
*Sadness* nominated Best Documentary, winner Best Sound, Australian Film Industry awards  
*Sadness*, finalist, Television Documentary and Information Programs Cultural Issues; finalist, New York Festivals 1999 Television Programming Awards  
Special Mention; Australian Centre for Cultural Studies Awards  
*Sadness* winner Australian Film Critics Circle Award for Best Doc. film  
*Sadness* winner of best documentary ATOM Awards (Association of Teachers Of Media)  
1999 *Sadness*, written and performed by William Yang, adapted and directed by Tony Ayes, voted Most Popular film at the Brisbane International Film Festival  
Awarded an AWGIE prize for *Sadness* screenplay by the Australian Writers Guild  
*Sadness* bestowed the Cinemedia Erwin Rado award for the Best Australian Short Film, Melbourne Film Festival  
*Sadness* received the Australian Film Industry award for best sound in a documentary  
1997 Outstanding Visual Arts Event. Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras, Sydney, for *Friends of Dorothy*  
1993 International Photographer of the Year: The Higashigawa-cho International Photographic Festival Award, Japan

## PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

- National Gallery of Australia, Canberra  
National Library of Australia, Canberra  
National Portrait Gallery, Canberra  
Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney

Queensland Art Gallery/GoMA, Brisbane  
State Library of New South Wales, Sydney  
Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney  
Cairns Regional Art Gallery, Queensland  
Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane  
The University of Queensland, Brisbane  
Higashigawa-cho Municipal Gallery, Hokkaido, Japan  
Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography, Japan



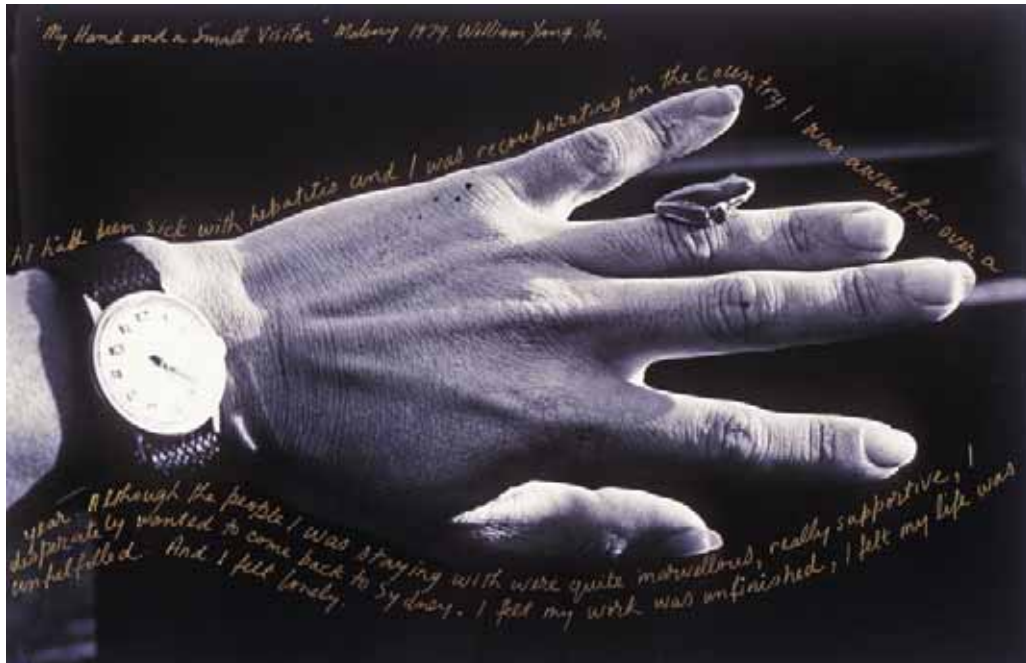
**HAND OF THE DALAI LAMA (1996)**

Inkjet print—Epson UltraChrome K3™ inks on Innova Softex 315 gsm paper

26 x 40 cm

Edition 20

\$3,960



**MY HAND AND A SMALL VISITOR (1979)**

Silver gelatin print

30 x 45 cm

Edition 10

\$2,640



**STARS IN MY HAND (1992)**

Silver gelatin print

26 x 40 cm

Edition 10

\$2,640



**BATTLING TIME (2010)**

Inkjet print—Epson UltraChrome K3™ inks on Innova Softex 315 gsm paper

26 x 40 cm

Edition 20

\$1,650



**CEREMONIAL MILK (2005)**

Inkjet print—Epson UltraChrome K3™ inks on Innova Softex 315 gsm paper

26 x 40 cm

Edition 10

\$1,650



**FAMILY ALBUM (2009)**

Inkjet print—Epson UltraChrome K3™ inks on Innova Softex 315 gsm paper

26 x 40 cm

Edition 20

\$1,650





**GLITTER (2008)**

Inkjet print—Epson UltraChrome K3™ inks on Innova Softex 315 gsm paper

26 x 40 cm

Edition 20

\$1,650



**HANDS OF THE BRIDE (2006)**

Inkjet print—Epson UltraChrome K3™ inks on Innova Softex 315 gsm paper

26 x 40 cm

Edition 20

\$1,650



**MAGNOLIA SEEDS (1999)**

Inkjet print—Epson UltraChrome K3™ inks on Innova Softex 315 gsm paper

26 x 40 cm

3/20

\$1,650



**MARCUS #2 (2011)**

Inkjet print—Epson UltraChrome K3™ inks on Innova Softex 315 gsm paper

26 x 40 cm

Edition 20

\$1,650



**SOMEBODY LOVES ME (2009)**

Inkjet print—Epson UltraChrome K3™ inks on Innova Softex 315 gsm paper

27 x 39 cm

3/30

\$1,650



**TOUCHING THE HORSE (1979)**

Inkjet print—Epson UltraChrome K3™ inks on Innova Softex 315 gsm paper

26 x 40 cm

Edition 20

\$1,650

## Andrew Baker Art Dealer

26 Brookes Street • Bowen Hills Qld 4006

07 3252 2292 • 0412 990 356

info@andrew-baker.com • www.andrew-baker.com

