

FAT CANARY JOURNAL

July 2019

GEORGE POULAKIS

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Mr. August, from the series Man Geddes

This July, the Fat Canary Journal celebrates the photography of George Poulakis. This clever artist spans the gamut, from tongue-in-cheek ridiculous, to taking a brooding view into the dark corners of the human psyche. With masterful technical and composition skills, the artist makes the work convincing, without it being cheesy or overly melodramatic. Ingeniously inspired by a wide range of influences, there are twists on the widely popular Geddes'esq style, along with a good dollop of classical melodrama, reminiscent of film noir's version of Jacques-Louis David's "The Death of Marat".



Chocolate Selfie

Poulakis, an award winning, fine-art photographer based in Melbourne, Australia, has exhibited his work in four solo exhibitions and five group exhibitions at the Centre for Contemporary Photography, Yarra Sculpture Gallery, and the Red Earth Gallery in Melbourne.

Most recently, he was named one of the 10 best artists in Australia's "Emerging Art Photographer of the Year" competition. He also received the high commendation of being Australia's Black & White Photographer of the Year. Outside of his art practice, George teaches photography, digital processing, and filmmaking at the Photography Studies College, and the Centre for Adult Education.



Untitled Noir Self Portrait

George's work explores the duality of identity; the façade that we sometimes present to the world, and the self that we inhabit when we are alone. "I examine these facets of my own personality, looking at the truth buried beneath the façade. These images are a reflection of my own state of mind, and of how I perpetually oscillate between hope and despair. Light is peripherally glimpsed, but is otherwise absent, cloaked by a darkness that stems from within."



The Space Between, from the Shadows Within series

“I am intrigued by this dichotomy of darkness and light, and by the balance that is formed when these two diametrically opposed elements come together. It is this spectrum - this grey-area of uncertainty - which forms the basis of my work.”



Still from the video project Shadows Within



Still from the video project *Αρρώστια*

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2018 Shadows Within, Red Earth Gallery, Melbourne

2018 Transient Nature, Centre for Adult Education, Melbourne

2018 Untitled Observations, Centre of Italian Studies, Melbourne

2018 Bodyscapes, Journal Café, Melbourne

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2018 In Light, Centre for Contemporary Photography, Melbourne

2018: People: A Window to the Soul, The Gallery at Melbourne City Library, Melbourne

2016 Fresh16, Yarra Sculpture Gallery, Melbourne

2016 Salon, Centre for Contemporary Photography, Melbourne

2016 RAW presents: Verve, Melbourne Pavilion, Melbourne

AWARDS

2019 Australasia's Emerging Art Photographer of the Year - top 10

2019 Australia's Emerging Black & White Photographer of the Year - high commendation

2018 Australian Photography Awards: student category - honorable mention

2017 Australia's Top Emerging Art Photographer - commended

2016 Epson AIPP VPPY: portrait category - silver award

2016 AIPP: illustrative category - silver award

2016 Australian Photography Awards: student category - 6th place

ARTIST RESIDENCIES

2019 Arte Studio Ginestrelle, Assisi, Italy

2019 Palazzo Stabile, Castelletto Molina, Italy

PUBLICATION HISTORY

Melbourne Times Weekly, Australian Financial Review, ArtsHub, Living Melbourne, twenty600, Vibewire, Stonnington/Boroondara Review Local, RHUM, Capital Magazine, Capital Express, Building News, B2B in Canberra, This Week in Canberra.

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Untitled #07, from the series Incubus

EDUCATION

2013-18 Bachelor of Photography, Fine Art Major

Photography Studies College, Melbourne

2001-03 Bachelor of Arts

University of Canberra



Meta from the series All you do is press the button, right?