



BEULAH VAN RENSBURG

Beulah is an Australian artist living abroad, whose love of painting and photography grew through her studies at University of Western Sydney and Sydney College of the Arts. She has always been attracted to the still life in all mediums, especially sculpture, photography and painting. She has studied the Italian Old Masters Painting Technique with Charlie Sheard, where her understanding and control of the traditional technique blended with her photography techniques as well.

As a dedicated artist and art educator, her ideas stem from the notion of prior perception: each of us approach things or objects in a unique way, we each hold preconceived ideas about the everyday things which surround us. These differences are due to our upbringing, environment, culture, religion, and our unique personal history. All these influences, this prior-perception, changes the way we interact even with everyday objects, we cannot escape from it.

From infancy we learn to interpret our world, it is a gradual process as we acquaint ourselves with things we see, then we name and then we touch. Understanding this more deeply calls into question the relationship between perception and knowledge, between appearance and reality. This idea motivates a lot of Beulah's work, and has led her to explore a world of play and childhood memories.

"I collect found objects from children's stores and second hand flea markets and then take them into the studio where they are altered or distorted and introduced into their own scene or world. Dioramas are constructed with these found objects, and are altered and enhanced with painting, sculpting and then photographed in a special technique. It is a very traditional approach to photography and nothing is done digitally. It is all on film, my images are created in a process of painting with light to produce a painterly quality to them, twisting the line between fantasy and reality. Many of the scenes are inspired from my travels, drawings and translation of my experiences of living in countries where English is not the main language."

These dioramas of found objects and materials links to the Dadaist tradition, once photographed, the original creations are thrown away and the photographs are left to communicate to the viewer some emotion or feeling of these experiences. The reaction to the work is bound up in the viewer's prior perception and personal experience of these specific objects and symbols.

Voltaire said: "Men employ speech only to conceal their thoughts"

Beulah's latest work moves away from photography and back into traditional painting, exploring through a highly symbolic figurative language the experience of moving from one country to another. They represent the process of global movement, excitement, confusion, the capturing, the happiness, the frustration, the frightening, the following, and the freeing all of this involves. She knows in this work she finds a voice common with so many women.

Beulah van Rensburg Biography

Born Wollongong, Australia 1972

Currently living and working in Hong Kong

Education

1995 Post Graduate Diploma University of Sydney, Sydney College of the Arts

1994 Bachelor of Visual Arts University of Western Sydney Macarthur

Solo Exhibitions

2009 'Taken - painting with light' Fringe Club, fotogalerie, Hong Kong

2003 'Kunstevent' Beursgebouw, Antwerp, Belgium

1995 'The Hungry Teapot' Mary Place Gallery, Paddington, Australia

1994 'Giddy Painting' Toast Gallery, Sydney, Australia

Group Exhibitions

2014 Affordable Art Fair, Hong Kong

2008 'Dreamday' The Visual Arts Center, Hong Kong

2005 'Off the Wall' Selected for Art Sydney 2005, The Horden Pavilion, Sydney Australia

2004 'Selected semi-finalist IYA Artlink competition' Amsterdam, Moscow, Tele Aviv

'Arrested Art' Carpenters Hall Bayswater, London England

'Selected work from 41 Australian & New Zealand Photographers' Sothebys Institute of Art New York

Sothebys.com Associate Exhibition & Online Auction

'41 Australian & New Zealand Photographers' Australian Consulate General New York Sothebys.com Associate Exhibition & Online Auction

'Kunst Köln 2002' Presentation of work in lecture on Australian and New Zealand Photography

by Alison Holland at Kunst Köln 2002, Köln Photo II International Photo Fair, Cologne Germany

1997 'Fibro - A devotion to the Surburbs' Australian Perspecta Casula Powerhouse Museum, Sydney Australia

'Howard Leonard Gallery' Collection, Sydney Australia

1996 'From Strength to Hope' Wagga National Gallery, Australia

'Howard Leonard Gallery', Collection, Sydney Australia

'From Strength to Hope' Amnesty International, Artspace, Art Gallery of New South Wales,

From Strength to Hope' Australia Travelling Exhibition, Bathurst National Gallery

'Precious' Post Grad Exhibition, Sydney College of the Arts, Sydney Australia

'Emerging Visual Artists' Pultney Grammer, Adelaide Australia

'Mary Alice Evertt Award' Casula Powerhouse & Arts Centre, Sydney Australia

'55 Degrees' Graduation Exhibition UWS Macarthur, Sydney Australia

'Nine to One' Liverpool Council Chambers Coalescence, Sydney Australia

'Coalescence' Bondi Pavillion Gallery, Sydney Australia

Collections

Jason DeBasio Collection, United States of America

Pultney Grammer School, South Australia

Publications

Dec 1997 'Struggling to be Seen' Artlink Magazine

Aug 1997 'Burbs on Toast' The Daily Telegraph

Aug 1997 'The Arts' The Australian

July 1995 'The Gallery' Commercial Photography

April 1995 'On the Exhibition Trail' Commercial Photography

Jan 1995 'Top 25 Photographic Students in NSW' Commercial Photography

Aug 1994 'Welcome to Giddy Painting' The Torch

Aug 1997 ABC Television, Artattack, featuring 'Toasty':Fibro Australian Perspecta

Aug 1997 2SSRFM Radio - Interview on Australian Perspecta