

MEDIA RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Unconscious Places: Photography and History

4 September – 3 October 2018

Launch and artist talk from 1pm Saturday 8 September

Curated by Donna West Brett.

Artists - Jane Brown, Richard Glover, Lynne Roberts-Goodwin and Kurt Sorenson.

Unconscious Places: Photography and History explores the conditions of place in the urban-scape and in remote landscapes. Taking the renowned contemporary German photographer, Thomas Struth's concept of unconscious places as a touchstone, the exhibition considers the ways in which photography can capture traces of events that occurred at a location before the photograph was taken. For Struth, this means that photographs can reveal the unconscious nature of place and its past.

The exhibition features four contemporary Australian photographers whose work engages with themes of place and location including the urban-scape, country landscapes, and remote environments.

Richard Glover's **Paradise** series picture the tension between the urban fabric's past and its present under constant stages of renewal, rendering the scenes alienating and strange. Largely taken around the urban centre of Ultimo in inner Sydney, these photographs engage with the strangeness of local sites whose contested and multiple histories continue to press up against urban regeneration.

Kurt Sorenson's evocative series **Widow's Creek** traces the history of a singular event reported in the Sydney Morning Herald on June 8th 1915 as *A Bush Tragedy*. The article reports the tragic and mysterious shooting of a local farmer in the dark of night. These richly coloured photographs respond to the landscape in this area as evoking the remnants and traces of this local murder.

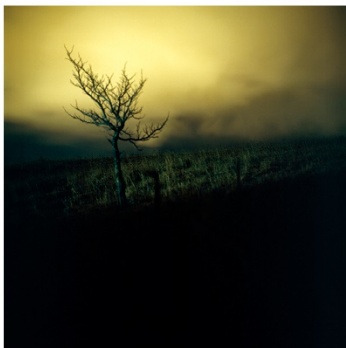
Melancholic overtones are extended in Jane Brown's series **Black Ships**, which feature various Japanese locations including Kyoto and Hiroshima. These enigmatic black and white photographs are loaded with symbolic meaning, referencing the pitch-black Portuguese ships that travelled to Japan from the 16th century, whilst recalling the tragedies of the 20th century in the bandaged trees, which are contrasted with the renewal of cherry blossom.

The expansive photographic series by Lynne Roberts-Goodwin **#navigational failure**, brings us to the Middle East. Contrasting the urban environment of the West Bank with unspecified aerial photographs taken from a balloon, of landscapes in Jordan and Turkey, these works present an ongoing theme in Roberts-Goodwin's work, exploring the tensions borne out between geopolitically contested locations.

The exhibition is curated by Dr Donna West, Brett, lecturer in Art History at The University of Sydney. Brett is author of *Photography and Place: Seeing and Not Seeing Germany After 1945* (Routledge, 2016) and co-editor with Natalya Lusty of *Photography and Ontology: Unsettling Images* (Routledge, 2018).

Short Statement 50 Words

Unconscious Places: Photography and History 4 September – 3 October. Featuring four contemporary photographers, Jane Brown, Richard Glover, Lynne Roberts-Goodwin and Kurt Sorensen. Curator Donna West Brett selected works engaging with themes of place and location including urban-scape, country landscape, remote environments. Launch and artist talk from 1pm Saturday 8 September.



From top Clockwise: Jane Brown, Richard Glover, Lynne Robert-Goodwin and Kurt Sorensen.
High Resolution images available

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The **Grace Cossington Smith Gallery** is a not-for-profit gallery, run by Abbotsleigh, serving the public through free admission and connections to education. The Gallery is open Monday to Friday from 10 am-5 pm and Saturday from 9 am-4 pm. Enter via Gate 7, 1666 Pacific Highway Wahroonga. Phone: 02 9473 7878