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MAGIC OF THE CAMERA OBSCURA REVEALED IN CONTEMPORARY PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION AT THE COORONG GALLERY

A new exhibition that twists the viewer’s perception of reality will be unveiled at the Coorong Gallery this month.

Robyn Stacey: Ray of Light will be on display at the Coorong Gallery in Tailem Bend from 14 June – 26 July 2019. The exhibition features eight large-scale camera obscura photographs by the contemporary Australian artist Robyn Stacey.

First shown as part of the 2016 Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art: Magic Object, Stacey’s mind-bending camera obscura photographs depict an optical device of wonder, whereby the external world is trapped and inverted within the room.

Included in the exhibition are camera obscura photographs of iconic and well-known sites around Adelaide, including the Brookman Building at the University of South Australia, Carrick Hill, The Cedars at Hahndorf, the Institute Building, The Lighthouse Wharf Hotel in Port Adelaide, Parliament House and the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI).

In the artist’s words, these bewildering photographs become “a mash up of inside and outside".

Above: Robyn Stacey with her work Lighthouse Wharf Hotel, Port Adelaide, 2016; Photo: Daniel Boud
“The magic of the camera obscura is that it makes us question what we take for granted - the everyday experience is presented upside down and in reverse, mimicking the way an image forms on the retina,” says Stacey.

“In some photographs cars drive over the ceiling and the sky and clouds cover the floor… it’s like being in a movie where you are in the world but removed from it at the same time.”

Coorong District Council Mayor Paul Simmons welcomed the exhibition and encouraged locals to take time to view the works.

“Robyn Stacey is a highly regarded artist and it is great news for the Coorong Gallery to be hosting this exhibition in partnership with Country Arts SA, the Art Gallery of South Australia and the Regional Galleries Association of South Australia,” Mayor Simmons says.

“Rarely do we see works like this exhibited in our region and we look forward to sharing them with locals and visitors alike.”

Robyn Stacey has presented work in major solo and group exhibitions including the 2016 Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art: Magic Object at the Art Gallery of South Australia, and Robyn Stacey: Cloud Land at the Museum of Brisbane, in 2015.

Stacey’s works are held in public collections, including the National Gallery of Australia, National Portrait Gallery, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Art Gallery of Western Australia, National Gallery of Victoria, Art Gallery of South Australia, Queensland Art Gallery, the New South Wales Historic Houses Trust, the City of Sydney, Anne & Gordon Samstag Museum of Art, Adelaide and Artbank.

This exhibition is part of a regional South Australian tour presented in partnership with Country Arts SA, the Art Gallery of South Australia and the Regional Galleries Association of South Australia.

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