



Artist statement

The original concept for this series came to me slowly over a period of time. I was particularly inspired after seeing an exhibition in Melbourne by Indigenous photographer Ricky Maynard entitled *Returning to places that name us*.

My work *Walan Budhang Yinaagirrbang* is a series of images of individual women who represent all Black women, rather than a group of individual photographs.

I have deliberately not identified each woman, because *Walan Budhang Yinaagirrbang* is not about individual portraits.

I feel strongly about this, because I want my images to allow these women to tell their unique stories while at the same time reflecting the common history and experiences Aboriginal women have shared.

My family, my connection to my ancestral country and language and my people are very important to me, so I have given my series a title in my own language, Wiradjuri. *Walan Budhang Yinaagirrbang* translates as 'Strong Black Women'—the quality I wanted to reveal through this series.

Technically I decided to photograph each woman in a similar way without western accessories and in black and white because I did not want to detract from the essential self and message of the women.

To me, *Walan Budhang Yinaagirrbang* portrays beauty, strength, courage and wisdom, mirrored in the haunting eyes of these strong Black women.

Kerstin Styche
June 2011

Walan Budhang Yinaagirrbang

PhotoAccess is pleased to present two exhibitions showing different aspects of Indigenous life in Australia for 2011 NAIDOC Week: *Walan Budhang Yinaagirrbang* by Kerstin Styche and *Erub, July 1* by Bronwyn Jewell.

Kerstin Styche is a Wiradjuri woman with family connections to Western New South Wales. She was born and raised in Canberra and graduated with a Bachelor of Design (Photography) from the Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) in 2010. Kerstin is a Senior Photographic Technician at the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS).

Kerstin Styche is the fourth PhotoAccess Emerging Indigenous photographer to show in the HUW DAVIES GALLERY for NAIDOC Week. We first saw her powerful black and white portraits in *White Walls*, the December 2010 exhibition by CIT students at the High Court of Australia. Kerstin has worked with our Education and Projects Manager, Sean Davey, and Stephen Best from Macquarie Editions to reinterpret the series, shown in full at AIATSIS in March this year, in a selection of six large (610 x 430 mm) inkjet prints on Harman Gloss Baryta paper and a boxed portfolio of all 15 portraits printed on 420 x 297 mm Harman Gloss Baryta paper.

In her Artist Statement Styche says '*Walan Budhang Yinaagirrbang* portrays beauty, strength, courage and wisdom, mirrored in the haunting eyes of these strong black women.' In my view these larger format prints, with their strong contrasts from black to white, extraordinary detail and beautiful skin tones meet her aims magnificently. We can see the strength of the women but also their essential humanity—an important achievement for a portrait photographer. Kerstin Styche is a high achieving young Indigenous woman and we are proud to help bring her work to the attention of the wider Canberra community in this, her first, solo exhibition in a public art gallery.

The exhibition and Kerstin's emerging artist residency has been supported by the ACT component of the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy. Production of the portfolio has been made possible by a micro grant from the ACT Community Arts Office.

PhotoAccess is delighted to present Kerstin Styche's *Walan Budhang Yinaagirrbang* in the HUW DAVIES GALLERY at the Manuka Arts Centre for 2011 NAIDOC Week.

David Chalker
Director



Biography

Education

- 2010 Bachelor of Design (Photography), Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT)
 - 2009 Advanced Diploma of Photography, CIT
 - 2006 Certificate IV in Community Services, CIT
 - 2005 Year 12 Certificate Erindale College
- Other courses: CIT Solutions Digital Photography & Computers; PhotoAccess Introduction to Digital Photography; CIT Solutions Photography Essentials; Wizard Computer Training (Photoshop Essentials); Cultural Awareness Training, Boomanulla Oval, Narrabundah ACT

Solo exhibitions

- 2010 *Walan Budhang Yinaagirrbang*, HUW DAVIES GALLERY, PhotoAccess, Manuka Arts Centre, Canberra, ACT; *Walan Budhang Yinaagirrbang*, AIATSIS (March 2010)

Selected group exhibitions

- 2010 *White Walls*, High Court of Australia, ACT; *Fawn*, Design Space, CIT
- 2009 *48-15*, High Court of Australia, ACT
- 2008 *POW – Pictures on Walls*, High Court of Australia, ACT
- 2007 *Echo – Each Chooses Her Own*, High Court of Australia, ACT; *Tasmania* (CIT)
- 2006 *Digital Photography & Computers*, Online Exhibition, www.allanmoore.com/gallery
- 2005 *Metamorphosis*, Erindale College, ACT
- 2004 *Lanyon*, Lanyon Homestead, ACT

Awards

- 2011 2011 PhotoAccess Emerging Indigenous Photographer
- 2010 Best Studio Lighting for Final Year Student in the Degree Program, CIT; Most Outstanding Final Year Student in the Degree Program, CIT; Institute Medal, Centre for Creative Studies, CIT (presented bi-annually in first semester and October graduation ceremonies; nominations are based on the academic achievements of graduating students)
- 2006 Achievement Award AIATSIS
- 2005 Commitment Award for Parenting and Childcare, Erindale College
- 2003 Outstanding Achievement and Application to Studies, Mackillop Catholic College

Publications

- 2010 *National Indigenous Times*, 'Kerstin Styche: Portrait of success' (July 2010); *The Canberra Times*, *Photographer shifts focus to show women in their own light* (June 2010)
- AIATSIS Institute NEWS*: August 2009; November 2008; March 2008; September 2007; December 2006
- 2008 *The Canberra Times* (Education Magazine): 'Indigenous Australia: Here and Now'; *The Chronicle*, 'NAIDOC Week' in the ACT
- 2007 Koori Mail, NAIDOC Day (July 2007)

List of works

1 to 6	Ultrachrome HDR pigment inkjet prints on Harman Gloss Baryta 320 gsm paper	610 x 430 mm
	Limited edition of 10 sold as a set only (unframed)	\$1750
7	Set of 15 Ultrachrome HDR pigment inkjet prints on Harman Gloss Baryta 320 gsm paper	420 x 297 mm
	Limited edition of 10 + 1 AP boxed set	\$2500



PhotoAccess thanks Neville O'Neill, Indigenous Arts Officer, ACT Community Arts Office, for his continuing assistance with the PhotoAccess Emerging Indigenous Photographer program.