



talkingpoint

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND? LET US KNOW BY WRITING TO ASCOTMINI@STYLEMAGAZINES.COM.AU

Even after living in this area for many years, the stunning poinciana trees that line our streets never fail to take my breath away.

AC, Hendra



I overheard someone at the shops the other day complaining about racecourse patrons "degrading" the area and had to hold my tongue. If you choose to live near Eagle Farm and Doomben, you can't whinge – they're icons in our neighbourhood and they bring in a lot of business. Move to the outer 'burbs if you can't handle a party every now and then!

BB, Ascot



VERY HAPPY TO SEE THE ART ON THE WHARF EVENT THAT HAPPENED ON DECEMBER 6 AND 7. IT'S GREAT THAT ARTISTS AND CREATIVE SPARKS ARE BRINGING THEIR WORK TO THIS AREA INSTEAD OF GOING THE USUAL VALLEY OR PADDINGTON ROUTE. MAY THERE BE MANY MORE.

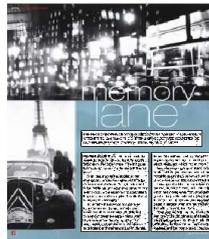
JK, Albion

I understand that the beautiful old trees on Sandgate Road have to be trimmed back to accommodate buses, but do they have to hack at them so severely? It just looks ugly.

GB, Ascot

Local artist Emma Sheldrake's latest exhibition, *Provocative*, is on until December 23 at Joshua Levi Galleries in Woolloongabba. The show moves away from her pop-influenced previous works and emerges as a more subtle portrayal of female expression. *Mesmeric* is pictured.

p 3392 2220
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arts entertainment




memory lane

THE PHOTOGRAPHS OF YOUNG ASCOT-BASED ARTIST PIA ROBINSON ATTEMPT TO CAPTURE THE SHIFTING SPACE BETWEEN EXPERIENCE AND REMEMBRANCE. CASEY HUTTON FINDS OUT MORE.

PIA ROBINSON'S artist statement includes an extract from Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's iconic story *The Little Prince*. "The thing that is important," it reads, "is the thing that is not seen."

It's an idea that Pia has applied to her photography practice during travels through places such as London, Paris, Istanbul and Dubai. While her untitled images strive on one level to capture the essence of places visited, they simultaneously recognise "the filtration of memory and imagination".

"To recreate the essence of a place we try and remember things, and when we remember, all our memories are distorted by a kind of dreamlike state - that's what I try to recreate in my photography," Pia says, explaining that blurred lines between recollections and dreams are also of interest

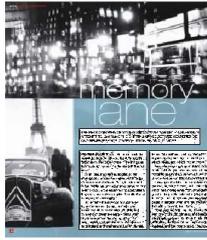
to her. "Sometimes I visit my memories in my dreams and sometimes it's hard to distinguish what's reality and what's not anymore."

Pia's sometimes grainy, indistinct images of architecture and scenery have a dreamy, nostalgic quality that's enhanced by her choice to shoot on black-and-white film.

Years ago, she inherited a number of old cameras from her father's architecture firm, which had moved away from photography into graphic design. Her interest in what she refers to as "puzzles of memory and experience" began in earnest when she returned from her first visit to New York in 2005.

"That was the first time that I really did play with one of the old cameras and basically it kept getting stuck, so the film didn't wind all the way through. When I came back to Australia and got it developed, I had a whole


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arts+entertainment







“... sometimes it's hard to distinguish what's reality and what's not...”

roll of film that kind of connected. And so it recreated an essence of a place but without being one dimension... because the layers were on top of each other.”

Asked about her obvious preference for black-and-white film, she replies: “Funnily enough, I'm not a goth but I do like wearing black! It's something about the form – I mean, I do dabble in colour but there's just something about black and white that you can't recreate in colour.”

Locals may have encountered Pia's work, which also includes jewellery (she majored in goldsmithing and silversmithing at Queensland College of Art), at the recent Art on the Wharf event at Portside. She's also

busy planning a solo show at 62 Robertson Street in The Valley, which is scheduled for March.

But first, more travel is on the cards. As you read this, Pia is most probably snapping away in West Africa. The images she'll return with, however, may not get a showing in her March exhibition. “I think I probably have enough work to fill three houses at the moment!” she laughs. “So the African photos might have to wait for another time.”

Add yourself to the mailing list for Pia's upcoming exhibition by emailing pia_robinson@hotmail.com



Artist Pia Robinson

