

Maggie Diaz

Curriculum Vitae

b. 1925, Margaret Eunice Reid in Kansas City Missouri, USA

d. 2016, Maggie Diaz, St Kilda Victoria, Australia

- 1949 Showgirl, Blackstone's Magic Show touring America
- 1950s Girl Friday, Ad agency while attending art school at night. Worked as darkroom assistant and then handed her own camera, which she paid off out of her wages.
- Won a photography prize with *The Chicago Tribune* - a portrait of a young man in a tunnel. The \$500 prize allowed her to begin her work as freelance photographer, 'Maggie Besson'.
- Mid 50s **Studio, Rush St Chicago**
Resident photographer, *The Tavern Club*, while documenting the *Lower North Center* housing project. Subjects included, kids on the streets, wealthy clients of The Tavern Club and jazz greats, such as the Ramsey Lewis Trio. Mentor to young dancer, Dallas Kinney – now a Pulitzer Prize winning photojournalist.
- 1961 Travelled to Australia aboard *The Canberra* on a one-way ticket (divorce gift from her Australian husband, Clement Fraser). She never returned to the USA.
- 1962 **Studio, St Kilda Road, Melbourne**
Brotherhood of St Laurence, Annual Report, 1962 / 63
Night shots of the city - purchased by The City of Melbourne.
On-site photographs, Sydney Opera House construction.
- 1964 Resident photographer at 3AW and installation in the Southern Cross Plaza - 'A series of photographs which form part of the interior design of the new 3AW studios in the Southern Cross Plaza are the work of a woman.' *The Age*, 1964
- 1965 **Studio on Nicholson Street, Carlton**
Resident photographer at The Spanish Club and met Jose Diaz, with whom she would have a son, Estevan in 1967. Continued commercial work for advertising agencies, such as Clemenger.
- 1967 Shared studio and home with Clement Fraser during production of map 'Australia, the Awakening Giant'.

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- 1970s 'Printing is People' – a photographic publication used as an example of excellence for teaching RMIT students in the use of available light.
- 1975 *Toorak Times* article noted that Maggie Diaz '*excels in art photography*'. Front cover featured 'Reticulated Lady'. Commissioned to take portrait of Sidney Nolan's mother in an apartment in St Kilda Road.
- 1980s **Commercial studio in Martin Street, Gardenvale**
Known for portraiture and actors' composites. Alliances with Sascha Agency and JM Casting. Met Gwendolen De Lacy, a 16-year-old actor.
- 1990s Regular photographer at La Mama Theatre, Carlton.
Moved to home with darkroom in Grosvenor Street, Balaclava.
- 2004 Commenced scanning and logging of archive with Gwendolen De Lacy and volunteer production team.
- 2005 Diaz Collection revealed at Maggie's 80th Birthday slideshow, La Mama Courthouse.
- 2005 Johan Scheffer speech to parliament '*Her life has been hard and his has been a rich treasure house of insight and inspiration for a great art.*'

EXHIBITIONS

Maggie Diaz Projects Inaugural event
St Kilda Series, supported by City of Port Philip
Maggie Diaz Photography Prize for Women
Brightspace St Kilda
3rd-19th September 2015

On Sacred Ground
Installation next to Maggie's home at Sacred Heart Mission
Graze on Grey, St Kilda
1st November 2012 – 28th June 2015

As Modern as Tomorrow, Photographers in Post-war Melbourne
State Library of Victoria (Group exhibition)
1st July 2011 – 5th February 2012

Maggie Diaz

Ballarat International Foto Biennale (Core Artist)

Maggie Diaz, One-way Ticket,
20th August - 18th September 2011

Maggie Diaz - Into the Light

TOUR VENUES:

Carnegie Gallery, Hobart
2nd July - 9th August 2009

Portland Arts Centre
19th January - 27th February 2009

The Drum Theatre, Dandenong Town Hall
16th April - 12th June 2009

Kingston Arts Centre
979 Nepean Highway, Moorabbin, Victoria

Colac Otway Performing Arts & Cultural Centre
25th July - 14th September 2008

Burrinja Gallery (**ABC Sunday Arts Feature Story**)
11th April - 13th July 2008

Maggie Diaz - *Into the Light*

City Museum at Old Treasury

Spring Street, Melbourne
10th March - 24th June 2007

COLLECTIONS:

- State Library of Victoria (archive of 35,000 negs + Into the Light materials)
- National Gallery of Australia
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