

Curriculum Vitae

b. 1925, Margaret Eunice Reid in Kansas City, Missouri “out of wedlock”.

- 1945 Show Girl, Blackstone’s Magic Show touring America.
- 1946 Girl Friday in Ad Agency, while attending Art School at night. She was handed her own camera which was paid off out of her wages. Worked as a darkroom assistant and at this time won a photography prize in *The Chicago Tribune*, with a portrait of a young man in a tunnel. The \$500 prize allowed her to begin her work as a freelance photographer. Margaret called herself “Maggie Besson”.
- 1950s Resident photographer at the famous cultural hub *The Tavern Club*. Commissioned by the *City of Chicago* to document and promote the housing project Lower North Center. Subjects included kids on the streets, wealthy clients of The Tavern Club, and jazz greats such as Ramsey Lewis Trio. At this time she was mentor to young dancer Dallas Kinney - now Pulitzer prize winning photojournalist.
- 1961 Sailed to Australia on a one-way ticket (divorce gift from Australian, Clem Fraser)
- 1962 Brotherhood of St Laurence (Annual Report 1962 – 1963)
Promotional Night shots of the city purchased by The City of Melbourne
Recorded construction of the Opera House
- 1964 3AW Installation at 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
Worked for ABC and Melbourne Symphony Orchestra. Studio in St Kilda Road
Photovision Group Exhibition at The Museum of Modern Art – Invited to join Group M
- 1965 Attracted to the Spanish Scene – become resident photographer at The Spanish Club and meeting Jose Diaz with whom she would have a son in 1967. Continued commercial photography work for advertising agencies, such as Clemenger and Klempe. Studio on Nicholson Street, North Carlton.
- 1975 Toorak Times article notes that Maggie Diaz “excels in art photography”. Front cover featured Reticulated Lady. Commissioned to take portrait of Sydney Nolan’s mother in St Kilda Rd.
- 1970s ‘Printing is People’ – a photographic publication was used as an “example of excellence” teaching photography students at RMIT the use of available light.
- 1980s Commercial Studio in Martin Street, Gardenvale and known for portraiture and actors
-90s composites. Alliances with Sascha Agency and JM Casting.
- 2005 Collection of Maggie Diaz revealed at 80th Birthday Slide Show, La Mama
Johan Scheffer speech to parliament “*Her life has been hard and this has been a rich treasure house of insight and inspiration for a great art.*”

In the late 90s, Jose’s suffered a heart attack and Maggie’s work started to wind down. In 2003, Maggie had a bad fall, which resulted in 2 months in Caulfield Hospital. Later that year, Jose died suddenly of a second heart attack. Maggie currently shares a rented flat in Balaclava with her son, Stevan. She continues to be passionate about Photography and the creative process....

Maggie Diaz

EXHIBITIONS

Group Exhibition:

As Modern as Tomorrow – Photographers in Post-war Melbourne

State Library of Victoria

1st July 2011 – 5th February 2012

Maggie Diaz, One-way Ticket

Ballarat International Foto Biennale

Mining Exchange, 12 Lydiard St North, Ballarat

20th August – 18th September 2011

Maggie Diaz – *Into the Light*

City Museum at Old Treasury

Spring Street, Melbourne 3000

10th March - 24th June, 2007

Burrinja Gallery – (ABC Sunday Arts Feature Story)

351 Glenfern Road, Upwey, Victoria

11th April - 13th July 2008

Colac Otway Performing Arts & Cultural Centre

Cnr Gellibrand & Rae St, Colac, Victoria 3250

25th July - 14th September 2008

Kingston Arts Centre

979 Nepean Highway, Moorabbin, Victoria 3189

20th March – 6th April 2009

The Drum Theatre, Dandenong Town Hall

City of Greater Dandenong

16th April - 12th June, 2009

Maggie Diaz

Portland Arts Centre

Cnr Glenelg and Bentinck St, Portland, Victoria 3305

19th January - 27th February 2009

Carnegie Gallery, Hobart (ABC Sunday Arts Feature Story)

16 Argyle St, Hobart, Tasmania 7000

2nd July - 9th August 2009

Collections:

State Library of Victoria

National Gallery of Australia