

# PHOTO REAL:

Uncomfortable truths

Photography symposium  
Museum of Australian Photography  
Sunday 27 October 2024

860 Ferntree Gully Rd,  
Wheelers Hill, VIC 3150

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## PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

### TALKS

MAPh galleries

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9.30 am - 10 am	Registration and coffee
10 am - 10.30 am	Director's welcome and introductory remarks by MAPH Senior curator Angela Connor
11 am - 12.30 pm	Panel discussion 1 - Uncomfortable truths: documentary photography in the digital age
12.30 pm - 1.30 pm	Lunch break
12.30 pm	Film screening - <i>Rod McNicol and his portraits 2024</i> , a short film (18 mins) by Yanni Florence on the artist Rod McNicol.
1 pm	Pop up talk - Judging the Bowness Prize MAPh Director Anouska Phizacklea
1.30 pm - 3 pm	Panel discussion 2 - Uncomfortable truths: small acts of resistance
3 pm	Closing remarks MAPh Director Anouska Phizacklea
3.15 pm - 4 pm	Drinks

### WORKSHOPS

Wheelers Hill Library Meeting Room

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**Workshop 1 - Pinhole camera masterclass with Shea Kirk**

10 am - 1.00 pm

Wheelers Hill Library Meeting Room

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**Workshop 2 - Toning at home: Cyanotype masterclass with Jessica Schwientek and Emma Rose-Porter**

1.30 pm - 4 pm

Wheelers Hill Library Meeting Room

## SESSIONS

### TALKS

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**Introductory remarks: MAPH Senior curator Angela Connor**  
10 am - 10.30 am

MAPh Senior Curator Angela Connor illustrates the power of photography through the lens of pain and loss. In her introduction, Connor discusses the works of five Bowness artists, whose raw and honest approach to image-making explores universal human experiences and creates safe space for difficult conversations.

**Session 1: Documentary photography in the digital age**  
11 am - 12.30 pm

In this accelerating age of digital image culture, photography is a key tool in the battle for our attention and affiliation. Over the last decade the authorship, meaning and authority of images has shifted. How have real time reporting, citizen journalism, changing social, political and media landscapes and drivers like engagement metrics impacted integrity, ethics and authenticity in photojournalism? How has the diversification of storytelling voices added to the landscape of documentary photography? How has the role of the photographer/artist changed? This session will explore the questions above through the unique perspectives and experiences of the panel. Chaired by Ellen Smith from the Guardian Australia, this panel includes Sean Davey, Aishah Kenton, Katrin Koenning and Andrew Quilty.

**Film screening: Rod McNicol and his portraits 2024**  
12.30 - 12.50 pm

The premier screening of a short film (18 mins) by Yanni Florence on the venerable artist Rod McNicol.

**Pop - up talk: Judging the Bowness Photography Prize**  
1 pm

MAPh Director Anouska Phizacklea dicusses the rewards and challenges of judging Australia's premier photography prize and addresses frequently asked questions.

**Session 2: Small acts of resistance**  
1.30pm - 3 pm

The photographic image holds the power to shape our truth and influence our perception of the world both for better and for worse. It can support or challenge ideologies, reveal stories and overturn conceptions. Chaired by Dr. Kirsten Garner Lyttle, this conversation with artists Ramak Bamzar, J Davies and Amos Gebhardt will navigate the ways that artists challenge ideas of representation and equality, shine a light in dark places and reclaim contested territory, using their art to push back.

**Symposium tickets \$20 / \$18 MAPH members (ticket includes admission to all symposium talks)**  
**Book via [maph.org.au/whats-on/](https://maph.org.au/whats-on/)**

### WORKSHOPS

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**Pinhole camera masterclass with Shea Kirk**  
Wheelers Hill Library Meeting Room  
10 am – 1 pm

Have you ever wondered how cameras work? Join us for this pinhole camera masterclass to learn how to make your own simple camera from scratch.

You'll be guided through the steps of making your own unique pinhole camera from found and recycled materials and have the chance to shoot a negative. This is a special hands-on opportunity to learn about the physics of a photographic image and experience the magic of analogue photography in a fun and safe environment with a knowledgeable and passionate practitioner.

You are encouraged to bring along your own small light tight box, tin or container to turn into a functional camera. Good options for tightly sealed containers include coffee and biscuit tins, thick mailing tubes and gift boxes — let your imagination run wild!

**Workshop tickets \$60 / \$54 MAPH members (workshop ticket includes access to all PHOTOREAL talks)**

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1.30 pm - 4:00 pm

**Toning at home - Cyanotype masterclass**  
Wheelers Hill Library Meeting Room  
1.30 pm - 4 pm

This masterclass with Bowness Photography Prize finalists Jessica Schweintek and Emma Armstrong-Porter is for those with a keen interest in chemistry-based photography who don't have access to a darkroom. This alternative process broadens the range of colours you can create when making a simple blueprint. Using supplies that you can pick up from the art shop and around your home, as well as your own photographic transparencies or found objects, you will learn how to make photographic contact prints on fabric. These cyanotypes use UV light to develop, and natural products with tannins such as tea to tone the photograph, from blue to sepia.

**Workshop tickets \$60 / \$54 MAPH members (workshop ticket includes access to all PHOTOREAL talks)**