

LOWANNA

WAYNE QUILLIAM

Lowanna radically alters the perception of Australian Indigenous art as Aboriginal photographer Wayne Quilliam emotionalises the bond between mother earth and her children. Quilliam's world and iconography is replete with irreverent metaphor exploring spirituality and sublime nature with a profane point of view. By manipulating the human form with abstract images he seemingly impregnates his photographs with an essence of life and spirituality.

Quilliam analyses and deciphers images of landscapes and the female form, to ultimately engage the viewer. By deconstructing the myth of vulnerability and nudity, Quilliam's opulent abstractions seduce the subconscious to ponder the hidden. Encapsulated by spirituality of nature, the artist deliberately covers and exposes photographs to reveal tensions between the act of representation and reality.

Traditional Aboriginal stories and tales have influenced the artist's work to become increasingly intense, mysterious, and probing. Quilliam explains, 'To interpret my work is akin to demystify the link between myth and reality. The process of covering and uncovering the human element of nature is to find depth, meaning and perhaps even a revelation that we are the vision of a "creator". I'm intrigued by the differing perceptions of nudity and the role it plays in modern society.'

WAYNE QUILLIAM is one of Australia's most prominent Aboriginal photographic artists with more than 100 solo and group exhibitions in Australia, Europe, Asia and the USA. Born in Hobart, Tasmania, Quilliam divides his time between his studio in Melbourne and touring to the most remote locations in Australia and abroad, working with Indigenous cultures. He continues to forge new cultural expressions and dimensions through his photography, and he is currently transforming *Lowanna* into a short film and stage play.

