

PATSY SMITH

Photography

Photography is the medium I work best with because it allows me to layer the various worlds that I live in. We all live and breathe and eat the same but as an Indigenous person, there's always another layer that guides you. My works represent that complex relationship.

What impacts on me is that the picture is only one dimensional but in my mind I see the other dimensions that create the story's depth. Sometimes, the stories come too quickly. I start adding layers and layers and then find I have to simplify the image.

Other times, I can tell the story with a couple of layers. Sometimes though, the image is enough on its own. It tells a story and you don't want to do anymore with it.

Memories can provide a story with layers. When I revisited my Grandma's

house in Daylesford, I was pleased to find that it had been loved and well cared for. I was drawn to tell a story from my childhood. I wanted to represent what I remembered from when I was a kid visiting Grandma. Grandma's house is there underneath and I built layers that hold the memories like the Christmas holly tree, sitting on the front porch, and the daffodils growing wildly around the paddocks.

In other work, like Parliament Forest, the layers hold concepts that are more evolved, like the cultural-political dimensions to our life. Knowing we need to abide by the laws of the Government, we also live knowing we need to respect the laws of our land and the guidance of our elders.

Patsy has completed Certificate III in Professional Arts Practice for Indigenous Artists and Certificate III in ATSI Cultural Arts at Chisholm Institute, Frankston. She has exhibited her contemporary photography work in 2008 in the Kodak Salon – Centre for Contemporary Photography Exhibition Melbourne, Art Melbourne 08, Koorie Heritage Trust, Gumbri-White Dove exhibition at City of Darebin ATSI Art Award, Mornington Regional Gallery and was a finalist in the Macarthur Cook Award 2008.



Meeting Place



Parliament Forest