

Dimensions in Time

'59 McLean Pde.'



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***Dimensions in Time -
'59 McLean Pde.'***

Comment

"Photography is a universal language. It leaves its imprint on our memory, allowing us to revisit it at any time. Through its silence we pause without distraction, we are taken beyond the frame where other mental images and memories are recalled".

'59 McLean Parade'

'59 McLean Parade' is made up of two bodies of images and is centred round a home that resided with the one family for almost one hundred years and five generations. During this time many memories and relation-ships were created, some of these memories were recorded for the 'family album' others were not and as a result this history and the related thoughts and feelings have been subsequently lost. I am interested in not only those that were re-corded but also those that were not and the impact of these omissions on memory and history.

Description

'Within These Walls' consists of 9 framed colour images 950 mm x 735 mm, 9 framed black and white photographs 760 mm x 575 mm and 1 colour image 600 mm x 755 mm.



The Old House



Round the Back



Afternoon Chats with Nan



Ladies Cards Day



Hide n seek



Darryl and Lassie



The Old Bedroom



The Honeymooners



Kids on the Block



Under the House

Rationale

'Within These Walls'

The images included in '*Within These Walls*' work on a number of levels. The black and white photographs look at life in this home between the 1940's and the 1970's, documenting the relationships that were nurtured there. I am interested in how these old photographs influence memory and how their imprints stay with us over the years. These mental images allow us to recall thoughts and feelings relating to moments in time. Although the collection of family photographs was extensive it was deficient in a number of areas, negative experiences and the interior. Through the inadequacies of film and the expense of flash, many memories and experiences relating to the interior of the house and family life have been lost forever.

Rationale continued

For this reason the large colour images show no visible history, they are timeless, the lingering feeling of a presence left there allows the viewer to imagine what life was like living in this home during the previous 100 years. The memories that are held within these walls are infinite, if only they could talk. The windows that have seen so many sunrises, the door handles turned by so many hands and the dreams that were dreamt there. Over this time women played a major role in documenting family life and creating a loving atmosphere and a place to call home.

Description

'*A Woman's Touch*' consists of 16 framed colour images 425 mm x 425 mm.



'A Woman's Touch'

Final size – 2.5 m square

16 framed images – 450mm x 450mm

Rationale

The series '*A Woman's Touch*' looks at the interior of the house at 59 McLean Parade and a woman's influence on it. We can start to imagine these items placed around the house, the meals that were prepared, the hand work created, the tiny feet taking their first steps in these tiny shoes and the scratch pen writing letters home to England. The coloured backgrounds represent the layer upon layer of paint on the walls. The different influences from the many women who have lived there are stitched together like a patchwork quilt; they link the generations in a house that was a home to one family.

Significance

The significance of Dimensions in Time – '59 McLean Pde.' is such that it not only places both social and personal photography in the art gallery space but also highlights the importance of this type of imagery to our cultural identity.

Through the absence of content in the empty spaces and the juxtaposition of these images with the historical photographs, the viewer goes beyond the frame where drawing from both imagination and memory, they can add their own thoughts and feelings to the images. Memories and experiences relating to our own lives are triggered. Although the inclusion of negative events is not apparent in the historical photographs we know through experience they happened and their presence lingers on. While this deliberate omission in most family collections indicates the social construct in which we live, the triggering power of a photograph works beyond just its content and frame.

Comment on Photography

“The Photograph is cherished as a replacement for moments in time. It creates a fast track to our memory, a truth that cannot be denied. Through photography we have a history we can refer back to at any time in our lives. We are our present and our past: we need to know who we are and why. Photographs and memories help give us identity and a place in the world where we can be ourselves. Within this place we are at peace with our own thoughts and feelings. All too often, our history and experiences are lost, for at the time they appear too ordinary and unimportant to document.”