

## Artist Statement Sharon Aldrick

Sharon Aldrick is a Central Coast-based artist working in photography. Her work has an orchestrated melancholy coldness having been made by someone who has set out to try and make sense of the world. Her work plays with reality and identity, meaning can be found in the inner world.

Aldrick plunges us into the subconscious, presenting us with haunting images combining two aesthetics. Photographs of places of worship & ancient villages of Northern Spain are the backdrop to weightless figures photographed in sacred places on the Central Coast.

Aldrick carefully constructs her subjects in locations of spiritual significance both to her and the subject, arranging the scene while the subject engages with an image she took in Spain.

*I capture the subject's responsive emotions, mirroring my own in the discovery of one's sense of self. Floating into the abyss and confronting fears, surrendering to the now, seeking a spiritual, transitional experience & disconnectedness all feelings I felt whilst walking the 800km Camino trail from St Jean Pied de Port France over the Pyrenees through Northern Spain into Santiago de Compostela in April/May last year. Aldrick said*

The landscape and 'doll like' figures is the synthesis of the artist's physical and symbolic inner sanctum. 'The Secret Haunt' represents places of buried emotion and connection to place. An ambiguous story of longing & searching combined with a liberated feeling. The images portray a salutary sense of peace with the purity of youth showing expressions of a calling from another world.

Sensual, mysterious and intriguing, lone identity's hang in the landscape of contemplation, referencing archetypes and spiritual symbolism.

Since the outset of her photographic career thirty years ago Aldrick has developed an impressive exhibition history. Aldrick's work concentrates on the human condition, her moving series of the Kamilaroi people of Walgett North West NSW was Featured in the exhibition Our Community: A Great Place To Be! National Museum of Australia in Canberra and travelled through regional Australia for two years (2005-7). She has been a finalist in Numerous national and international exhibitions including "The Citigroup Private Bank Australian Photographic Portrait Prize 2006" at the Art Gallery of New South Wales held in conjunction with the Archibald, the Josephine Ulrick and Win Shubert Award the Arts Centre Gold Coast and Olive Cotton Award for Photographic Portraiture Tweed Regional Gallery. Her work has been a finalist in the prestige's Head On Photo Festival Sydney in 2008-9-10-11 her work 'Netball Family' from the series Art Whispers is currently on display at the Museum of Sydney as a semi finalist for Head On Photo Festival 2016.

She has had numerous exhibitions at Gosford Regional Gallery, Won the Gosford Art Prize in 2009 (photography division) and the Indigenous collaboration prize.

Her work has been published in Aesthetica Creative Works Annual 2012 UK, Head On Photography Annual and Unsettling Histories: Visual modes of historical practice, Australian National University Professor Adam Shoemaker, Dr Melinda Hinkson, Professor Ann McGrath and Frances Peters-Little The 'History Through a Lens' forum research paper.

Sharon regards her best work as being an inspiration to young emerging artists and artist with disability on the Central Coast and works inspiring young creative minds.