

Artist Statement Sharon Aldrick

My professional focus is dealing with identity, culture and storytelling, spiritual journeys and our connection to place.

I explored the darker aspects of adolescence, identity, culture, love and life, in an imagination that hazes the boundary of reality but shows a unique stillness that portrays beauty, mystery and discovery.

It's the landscape I am in love with, but I only see it as a carefully orchestrated scene with individuals placed there.

I am fascinated with places that nobody sees, hidden landscapes that have a hidden beauty. I find a place and study every part of it. I mostly study it in very early morning. That time before the day starts, that peaceful hour before the clock starts ticking and busyness happens. I am alone with the landscape and it speaks to me. I wander through this unique place and compose parts of it for the scenarios.

I invent a story and imbed it into the landscape working together with chosen individuals and the culture and environment of the area. I carefully choose props and colour to create a scene, like a still from a movie.

I have taken people out of everyday life and placed them in a chosen landscape to complement the story. Most of these people who have modelled for me, I have only just meet and live in the Gosford area; all the landscapes are in and around the Gosford CBD. All these images are shot in camera mostly with available light and with minimal digital manipulation.

Every scene is a mystery, a “**Silent Tale**” of our presence/ the beauty of individuality, a lost past or uncertain journey. I have transformed some of Gosford's parks and waterways into a surreal tale of life, our journeys and connections.

I am obsessed with creating a mood, a feeling rather than an intellectual meaning. I want to evoke a reaction not an argument. It has to be deeply personal and individual. ‘A memory that you own’. I am not trying to voice an opinion but tell a story, through a sense of feeling about who and why we are. I have created the photographs to show a presence of something disturbing yet compelling and beautiful. Hauntingly surreal but mysterious. Strong yet fragile.

I love the visual play these opposing words have.

Each scene I will find a person that fits the chosen landscape or sometimes I find the person and then find the scene. Each scene I direct has personal parts of their journey in life. This work was completed in two weeks in Gosford CBD as part of the residency program “Faces of Gosford”.