



Maggie Diaz

Curriculum Vitae

b. 1925, Margaret Eunice Reid in Kansas City Missouri, USA

d. 2016, Maggie Diaz, St Kilda Victoria, Australia

1949 Showgirl, Blackstone's Magic Show touring America

1950s Girl Friday, Ad agency while attending art school at night. Worked as darkroom assistant and then handed her own camera, which she paid off out of her wages.

Won a photography prize with *The Chicago Tribune* - a portrait of a young man in a tunnel. The \$500 prize allowed her to begin her work as freelance photographer, 'Maggie Besson'.

Mid 50s

Studio, Rush St Chicago

Resident photographer, *The Tavern Club*, while documenting the *Lower North Center* housing project. Subjects included, kids on the streets, wealthy clients of The Tavern Club and jazz greats, such as the Ramsey Lewis Trio. Mentor to young dancer, Dallas Kinney - now a Pulitzer Prize winning photojournalist.

1961

Travelled to Australia aboard *The Canberra* on a one-way ticket (divorce gift from her Australian husband, Clement Fraser). She never returned to the USA.

1962

Studio, St Kilda Road, Melbourne

Brotherhood of St Laurence, Annual Report, 1962 / 63
Night shots of the city - purchased by The City of Melbourne.
On-site photographs, Sydney Opera House construction.

1964

Resident photographer at 3AW and installation in the Southern Cross Plaza - 'A series of photographs which form part of the interior design of the new 3AW studios in the Southern Cross Plaza are the work of a woman.' *The Age*, 1964

1965

Studio on Nicholson Street, Carlton

Resident photographer at The Spanish Club and met Jose Diaz, with whom she would have a son, Estevan in 1967. Continued commercial work for advertising agencies, such as Clemenger.



Maggie Diaz

- 1967 Shared studio and home with Clement Fraser during production of map 'Australia, the Awakening Giant'.
- 1970s 'Printing is People' – a photographic publication used as an example of excellence for teaching RMIT students in the use of available light.
- 1975 *Toorak Times* article noted that Maggie Diaz '*excels in art photography*'. Front cover featured 'Reticulated Lady'. Commissioned to take portrait of Sidney Nolan's mother in an apartment in St Kilda Road.
- 1980s **Commercial studio in Martin Street, Gardenvale**
Known for portraiture and actors' composites. Alliances with Sascha Agency and JM Casting. Met Gwendolen De Lacy, a 16-year-old actor.
- 1990s Regular photographer at La Mama Theatre, Carlton.
Moved to home with darkroom in Grosvenor Street, Balaclava.
- 2004 Commenced scanning and logging of archive with Gwendolen De Lacy and volunteer production team.
- 2005 Diaz Collection revealed at Maggie's 80th Birthday slideshow, La Mama Courthouse.
- 2005 Johan Scheffer speech to parliament '*Her life has been hard and his has been a rich treasure house of insight and inspiration for a great art.*'

EXHIBITIONS

Maggie Diaz Projects Inaugural event
St Kilda Series, supported by City of Port Philip
Maggie Diaz Photography Prize for Women
Brightspace St Kilda
3rd-19th September 2015



Maggie Diaz

On Sacred Ground

Installation next to Maggie's home at Sacred Heart Mission

Graze on Grey, St Kilda

1st November 2012 – 28th June 2015

As Modern as Tomorrow, Photographers in Post-war Melbourne

State Library of Victoria (Group exhibition)

1st July 2011 – 5th February 2012

Ballarat International Foto Biennale (Core Artist)

Maggie Diaz, One-way Ticket,

20th August - 18th September 2011

Maggie Diaz – Into the Light

TOUR VENUES:

Carnegie Gallery, Hobart

2nd July – 9th August 2009

Portland Arts Centre

19th January - 27th February 2009

The Drum Theatre, Dandenong Town Hall

16th April - 12th June 2009

Kingston Arts Centre

979 Nepean Highway, Moorabbin, Victoria

Colac Otway Performing Arts & Cultural Centre

25th July - 14th September 2008

Burrinja Gallery (**ABC Sunday Arts Feature Story**)

11th April - 13th July 2008

Maggie Diaz – *Into the Light*



Maggie Diaz

City Museum at Old Treasury

Spring Street, Melbourne

10th March - 24th June 2007

COLLECTIONS:

- State Library of Victoria (archive of 35,000 negs + Into the Light materials)
- National Gallery of Australia
- National Library of Australia
- National Gallery of Victoria