

MAGGIE DIAZ was born Margaret Eunice Reid in 1925 in Kansas City Missouri, USA. She passed away in 2016 in St Kilda Victoria, Australia.

LIFE EXPERIENCES

- 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 for a portrait of a young man in a tunnel. The \$500 prize allowed her to begin her work as freelance photographer as 'Maggie Besson'.
- Mid 50s Studio, Rush Street, Chicago
Resident photographer of 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 US.
- 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, met Jose Diaz, with whom she would have a son, Estevan, in 1967. Continued commercial work for advertising agencies such as Clemenger.
- 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 Moved to home with darkroom in Grosvenor Street, Balaclava Regular photographer at La Mama Theatre, Carlton.
- 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.
Johan Scheffer speech to parliament, *"Her life has been hard and this has been a rich treasure house of insight and inspiration for a great art."*

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

- 2018 *After Dark*, Fox Galleries, Melbourne (Online Exhibition) (19 July - 11 August 2018)
- 2017 *Between Two Worlds*, Fox Galleries, Melbourne (Solo) (14 February - 8 March 2017)
DENFAIR 2017, Fox Galleries Booth (8-10 June 2017)
- 2015 *Maggie Diaz Projects - Inaugural Event - St Kilda Series*, supported by City of Port Philip, Maggie Diaz Photography Prize for Women, Brightspace St Kilda (3-19 September 2015)
On Sacred Ground, Installation next to Maggie's home at Sacred Heart Missions, Graze on Grey, St Kilda (1 November 2012 - 28 June 2015)
- 2012 *As Modern as Tomorrow, Photographers in Post-war Melbourne*, State Library of Victoria (Group Exhibition) (1 July 2011 - 5 February 2012)
- 2011 *Ballarat International Foto Biennale (Core Artist)*, Maggie Diaz, One-way Ticket (20 August - 18 September 2011)
- 2007-09 *Into The Light* (Travelling Exhibition)
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
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