

Carousel

Photography by Polly Borland

Art Direction by Zoe Bedeaux

3 October-5 November 2006

Polly Borland will be exhibiting a new collection of work, *Carousel*, inspired by her home town of Brighton, at the Crane Kalman Gallery Brighton, to coincide with the Brighton Photo Biennial and Photo-Fringe in October.

Polly Borland was born and raised in Melbourne, Australia. She moved to the UK in 1989, and by this time she was already established as a leading portrait photographer, particularly with her work for *Australian Vogue*. Since then, Polly has earned her reputation by specialising in stylised portraiture and offbeat reportage.

She has worked for newspaper supplements including the *Independent on Sunday Review* and the *Daily & Sunday Telegraph Magazines* as well as *Vogue*, *Elle*, *Arena* and *Dazed & Confused* in the UK and *The New Yorker*, *Vanity Fair* and *Details* in the US. She has also shot movie stills and 'specials' for *Dogs in Space*, directed by Richard Lowenstein, and *Ghost of the Civil Dead*, *To Have and to Hold* and *The Proposition*, all directed by her husband John Hillcoat.

Polly's work has exhibited in both Australia and the UK and in 1994 she won the prestigious John Kobal Photographic Portrait Award and The National Portrait Gallery, London acquired a number of her photographs for its collection. In 1999 she took part in a group exhibition entitled *Glossy: Faces Magazines Now* at the National Portrait Gallery, Canberra which highlighted the work of six leading internationally renowned Australian editorial photographers.

Her first book, *The Babies*, is a photographic study of adult babies or infantilists, and was published in 2001 with an accompanying essay by Susan Sontag. In that same year she was one of eight photographers chosen to photograph the Queen for her Golden Jubilee.

In 2000 and 2001 Polly completed the series *Australians*, documenting the role of Australians in British culture, which included the portraits of people as diverse as singer Kylie Minogue and the vice-chancellor of Cambridge University Sir Alec Broers. *Australians* showed at the National Portrait Gallery in London and then in Canberra, and a book of the collection was published to coincide with the show. Polly's next book is about a Giant Girl called Gwen and this work will be exhibited at one of the UK's leading photographic galleries, The Michael Hoppen Gallery in London next year.

Polly is currently working on a series of eccentric faces from her local town of Brighton. This work will be exhibited in conjunction with the two Brighton photographic showcases, the Photo-Fringe and Biennial, at the Crane Kalman Gallery in Brighton in October.

"This series of 30 photographs focuses on people who have their own individual sense of style. Manifested creatively in the way they dress and present themselves to the world.

Most of the people we have photographed have been found in the streets of Brighton. They stand out in a crowd and we are instantly attracted to them. They might be labelled "eccentrics" but we admire them for their fierce individuality in a world full of conformity and homogenisation.

This is a document for, and of, these people with Brighton recognized as an integral part of each person's story." – Polly Borland, 2006