# RUTH MADDISON
## In Residence

*Amber Shadow.*

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July 30 - August 23, 2014

In 2013 I was awarded a 3-months residency at Artspace Visual Arts Centre in Sydney. The residency was offered to a regional artist. (I live in Eden on the far south coast of NSW, half way between Sydney and Melbourne.) I was keen to be one of the small group of national & international artists that would be in residence; to be able to see and talk about each other's work; to arrange studio visits with curators & others for suggestions/responses to a project I'm currently working on but had been struggling with; to take advantage of what Sydney has to offer that isn't available to me in Eden; and to make whatever new work I might make in a different location.

I used to describe my work as portrait and documentary. I came to photography untrained in any area of image making and ignorant of all art theory. I picked up a camera in 1976 when I was 30 and it was love at first negative. I was a politically conscious quasi-sociologist and voyeur working with a camera.

These days I don't quite know how to describe my work. Thirty-eight years later all I can say is I see images. Using a camera taught me to see what I am looking at, and now I can't stop seeing. I have a desire, a compulsion, a spontaneous impulse to frame up. Anything can interest me and it may not relate to anything I've done before or anything I'm working on. But it might one day. I usually don't think about any of that. Everything I do and see and know somehow becomes included in what I want to translate into images.

Maybe I am still a documentary photographer. I'm documenting the passage of my life via my image making. I'm recording what it is that makes me want to go on and on with the camera.

American photographer Emmet Gowin said, "You keep coming back to the problem, and you keep touching it and you keep caressing it, and thinking about it, and in a way loving it. You love the problem".

- Ruth Maddison

*Voyage 1 (Mitchell Library Reading Room)*

*Voyage 2 (Mitchell Library Reading Room)*

*Top Row L to R: St James Station, Cockatoo Island #1, Cockatoo Island #2*
*Bottom Row L to R: Cockatoo Island #4, Cockatoo Island #3, Cockatoo Island #5*

*Pomegranate Plate*

*Nothing to see #1*

*Nothing to see #12*

*Hieroglyphs # 1 - 16*

*Yin-Ju*

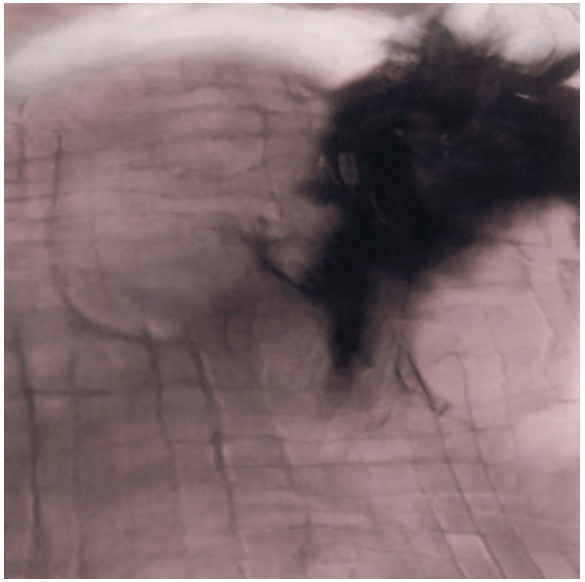
*Amber*

*Simone*

*Top Row L to R: Inga (Eden) 2001, Melbourne Show 1985, Winky at Nethercote 2003*

*Middle Row L to R: Dean and Kaleb 2002, Keith Karing in Melbourne 1985, Ponch Hawkes and Woody 2013*

*Bottom Row L to R: Shikha and Louie 2013, Lola 1991, Sam (Bermagui) 2003*



*Top Row L to R: Self 7.21pm, 7 December 2013, Sauna (April) 2013*
*Bottom Row L to R: Pool (Tessa) 2013, Street, self 9.35am*

*Doily # 1 - 4 from No one left to ask*

*Always black tea from No one left to ask*

*Seiko Silver Angel from No one left to ask*

*She loves to go dancing from No one left to ask*

She loved to go dancing.

We never said anything about it

We knew they passed through Jindabyne.

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*All Prints By Ruth Madison 2013 - 2014*