

2022 Photographic Competition Entries

1. Wrong Turn



My artwork is based on how a certain bad decision can lend you in a place of disappointment and despair. Although that does not mean that it is the end of the world. We all are responsible for our own living and to get out of a bad situation is just a decision away. The exit from a comfortable place might be uncomfortable but to reach somewhere you have to take that step and gather the courage to do so for you don't know what blessings lies ahead of you. This ideology is what I wanted to capture through non-tangible elements in my surroundings. The artwork is in black and white with a hint of grain to complement my style of art and present the tone which I intended to.

2. The Journey



Doors are obvious portals, but this work is more about the opportunities that come with travel and the spirit of entering into unknown adventure. The people waiting beside the carriage doors invites the travellers to embark on their journey, wherever it may take them.

3. Sunday Morning



I took this while volunteering in Vietnam, this was at one of the home stays i was living at. I woke up in the morning saw this view and it hit me i was in a whole new place then home, looking at this view made me feel as though i was entering into a whole new world.

4. Gateway Reflection



Environments cultivate spaces that cater for peoples individual needs. They allow people to make sense of their surroundings, harbour belonging and inspire growth. Places of familiarity and safety are gateways for reflection, of the past, present and future.

Having made my way back to the suburb where I spent most of my childhood, I found myself entering back into past experiences, ones that I embody through tracing my steps in my neighbourhood, scouring local bushland and observing amicable faces.

Nestled between a native sheoak and well kept council foreshore grounds, the aluminium seat is a portal into the human reckoning of reflection. The composition layers the viewers gaze into a setting sky that is ubiquitous to so many individuals but seemingly so special for each cities sunset. This artwork symbolises the many forms of entrances / exits, while having the river as a backdrop that represents the passage between two.

5. Seadwelling



In my artwork, I often create metaphorical entrances and exits. I look to create a narrative to open portals in which we can view parallels between the archaic and the modern. In my portrait Seadwelling, the ocean becomes both an entrance and exit into the fantastical to tell the tale of the heroine of the water.

Women have been said to have brought bad luck on board ships, yet women have been the best commanders and conquerors of the oceans in our histories. These legacies clash. I believe women and the sea have a kinship that we should honour. Through portraiture, I wish to depict this kinship that defies man-made labels.

6. Trapped in my mind



My artwork represents how I feel on a daily basis and embodies my interpretation of the theme, "EVERY EXIT IS AN ENTRY TO SOMEWHERE ELSE." For me, it represents the phenomenon of every choice made leading to a different door of outcomes and possibilities. The feeling of being trapped in life comes into play too as escaping life and taking the exit from living, is an entry into mind games which may wreak havoc on those who engage. The girl in the image feels trapped between being locked in her mind prison, or engaging in the outside world. Every choice, or exit, she makes leads her to enter new places which can be beautiful or utterly detrimental. She doesn't know what to do and feels lost and out of touch with life and reality and the fuzzy haze over her body is representative of this.

7. The entrance to a new beginning



This is a simple piece. It's about a person walking through a tunnel and it gets very dark quickly. Only a small light guides this person to the end of the tunnel. Then finally, this person can see light at the end of the tunnel and keeps walking.

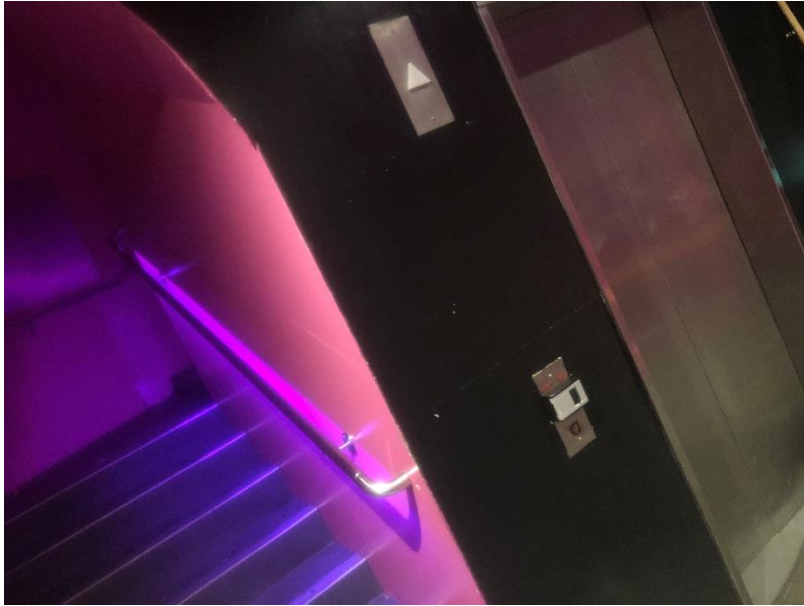
This piece shows the experience of life. How sometimes people do enter a tunnel and it's dark. It seems like there is no way out or no end to this tunnel. you aren't able to see the light at the end. But no matter what you still have the strength and determination to keep going. We enter these challenges every day of our lives and even when there seems to be no end, there is always an exit or entrance into something amazing. By reaching the end and seeing the way out you feel a sense of relief and happiness like you just got 100 per cent on a maths test. Once we exit this journey it is an entrance to our next step in life.

8. The Cube



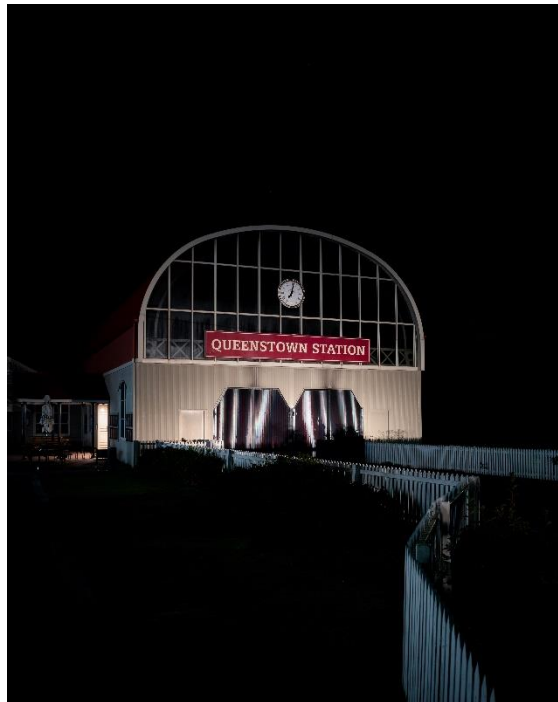
The phenomenon of deleterious, oppressive thoughts and occurrences are manifest in this 'hotel'. The hotel is a metaphor for impermanence, a temporary space where people come and go just as negative thoughts do. The image represents the transience of feelings and evanescence of life. Every choice we make and path we take may feel like a plunge into oblivion and is unbeknownst to those who face those decisions. It is a truth universally acknowledged that "every exit is an entry to somewhere new," and this artwork is a quintessential depiction of this. It is also an acknowledgment of the various unique meanings the statement beholds to the artist. The figure in the image is depicted wearing earphones - this is somewhat a self-portrait as music has always guided me through the challenges of life.

9. Pinkish Hell



I wanted to include both an entrance and exit if possible and ended up thinking that The Observatory Bar would be an interesting choice, with all the atmospheric gloomy lighting. But, also shoot it in a way that gives the viewer a choice, do they take the stairway up to "Heaven" or take the lift down to some kind of hellish secret underground society.

10. Presence in Absence



"Presence in Absence" is a photograph I took last year in response to the loneliness and solitude experienced during the pandemic. While no human presence is directly evident in the scene, the open door on the left of the building is evidence of life, evidence of the presence in the absence. The image serves as a reminder that around every corner is an open entrance - or exit - that promises to take us out of a pessimistic present into the hope and fear of an unknown future. Every decision we make opens and closes the sliding doors of our lives; each entrance or exit we take has the potential for radical change, opening new doorways that take our lives in a completely different direction from what we'd envisaged. The only certainty is uncertainty, so we exit through these doorways seeking fulfilment, seeking the presence in the absence.