



ANNE ZAHALKA

PLAYGROUND OF THE PACIFIC

Collectors' List No. 180, 2015

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JOSEF LEBOVIC GALLERY

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ANNE ZAHALKA: PLAYGROUND OF THE PACIFIC

From Sat., 24 October, and on our website from 7 November 2015.

Cover: **The New Bathers**, 2013, printed 2015, Type C print, 90 x 74cm,
edition of 5 plus 2 A/P's. \$6,600



This collection of iconic beach-themed images was assembled for a major survey show at Manly Art Gallery & Museum by one of Australia's most prominent photo-media artists.

From her acclaimed exhibition *Bondi: Playground of the Pacific*, 1989, a series reflecting on the mythologies of the beach and its community, through to the celebrated *Leisureland* (1999) series which documented the central place of leisure in Australian culture, and more recently a series of images titled *Homeground* which delves into the

cultural characteristics of Sydney suburbs, Anne Zahalka has continued to explore the place of the beach in contemporary Australian culture.

Reflecting on the imagery of traditional oil painting and photography, cinema and advertising, Zahalka has continued to play with the 'scenic backdrop', becoming one of a number of tropes within her work. Alongside the repeated motifs of the 'great outdoors' ocean, and seaside, Zahalka has continually investigated and challenged ideas of national, cultural and gender identity. Her work often deals with imagery that is very familiar to Australians, but subverts these with an ironic and critical voice. In the range of settings for her portrait figures, Zahalka has never strayed for too long from the image of the beach, whether real or contrived.

She has created new images generated in part by her observations and research of the seaside and harbour suburb of Manly and, through her investigations, uncovered an obscure 1930s painting by Nancy Kilgour from the MAG&M collection. She has reflected and re-figured that image to be both artwork in itself and a backdrop for the creation of other works. Her fascination with the scenic backdrop, iconic oil paintings and 'the portrait' directs much of her work.

Anne Zahalka's artworks feature in major public collections across the nation, prominently in published collections of Australian art photography, and have been commissioned for airports, hotels, galleries and houses of Parliament. She has exhibited extensively in Australia and internationally for over thirty years and held over 40 solo exhibitions. A major survey of her portrait work was prepared by the Centre of Contemporary Photography titled *Hall of Mirrors: Anne Zahalka Portraits 1987 – 2007*, and toured regionally and to major venues including the National Portrait Gallery in Canberra.

This catalogue features her most significant works from the beach and water-themed series including *The Bathers*, 1989, *Sunbathers No. 1* and *2*, 1989 and a revisiting of these works such as *The New Bathers*, 2013 made for the documentary *The Art of Australia* presented by Edmond Capon in which Anne was included and most recently a new version titled *The Sunbather*, 2015 featuring the same model who appeared in the original work now 26 years on.

We are very excited to be able to offer the original vintage collection from Anne's formative exhibition *Bondi: Playground of the Pacific*, 1989, printed by the artist from this period, as well as her newer works.



The Beach Inspectors, from the series *Bondi: Playground of the Pacific*, 1989, printed 2015, Type C print, signed, titled, dated and editioned in ink verso, 74 x 90cm. Edition of 20. **\$4,400**

The Bathers, from the series *Bondi: Playground of the Pacific*, 1989, printed 2015, Type C print, signed, titled, dated and editioned in ink verso, 74 x 90cm. Edition of 20. **\$6,600**

The Tourist, from the series *Bondi: Playground of the Pacific*, 1989, printed 2015, Type C print, signed, titled, dated and editioned in ink verso, 74 x 90cm. Edition of 20. **\$4,400**



The Girls #2, Cronulla Beach, from the series *Scenes of the Shire*, 2007, printed 2015, Type C print, signed, titled, dated and editioned in ink verso, 74 x 90cm. Edition of 20. **\$4,400**

The following titles are from the series *Bondi: Playground of the Pacific*, all are Type C prints, signed, titled, dated and editioned in ink verso, 74 x 90cm. Edition of 20. Each **\$4,400**

The Lifesavers, 1989, printed 2015

The Women 1989, printed 2015

The Council Workers, 1989, printed 2015



The Surfers, from the series *Bondi: Playground of the Pacific*, 1989, printed 2015, Type C print, signed, titled, dated and editioned in ink verso, 74 x 90cm. Edition of 20. **\$4,400**

The Sunbather #1, 1989,
printed 2015



The Sunbather #2, 1989,
printed 2015



The above titles are from the series *Bondi: Playground of the Pacific*, all are Type C prints, signed, titled, dated and editioned in ink verso, 74.5 x 74.5cm. Edition of 20 plus 2 A/P's. Each **\$5,500**



The Sunbather, from the series *Manly: Playground of the Pacific*, 2015, archival pigment ink print, signed, titled, dated and editioned in ink verso, 87.5 x 75cm. Edition of 6 plus 2 A/P's. **\$4,400**



Cole Classic, from the series *Leisureland*, 1998-2001, printed 2015, Type C print, signed, titled, dated and editioned in ink verso, 57.5 x 72.5cm (medium format). Edition of 6 plus 2 A/P's. **\$6,600**

The Boys, Murrumbidgee River, from the series *Leisureland Regional*, 2002, printed 2015, Type C print, signed, titled, dated and editioned in ink verso, 115 x 145cm. Edition of 12 plus 2 A/P's. **\$6,600**

A medium format is available on request: 57.5 x 72.5cm in an edition of 6 plus 2 A/P's, price \$3,300.



Oceanworld, from the series *Leisureland*, 1998-2001, printed 2015, Type C print, signed, titled, dated and editioned in ink verso, 115 x 145cm. Edition of 12 plus 2 A/P's. **\$6,600**

A medium format is available on request: 57.5 x 72.5cm in an edition of 6 plus 2 A/P's, price \$3,300.



Open Air Cinema, from the series *Leisureland*, 1998-2001, printed 2015, Type C print, signed, titled, dated and editioned in ink verso, 115 x 220cm. Edition of 12 plus 2 A/P's. **\$11,000**

A medium format is available on request: 57.5 x 121cm in an edition of 6 plus 2 A/P's, price \$5,500.

The following titles are from the series *Homeground*; all are archival pigment ink prints, signed, titled, dated and editioned in ink verso, 84 x 59.5cm.

Edition of 7 plus 2 A/P's

Each **\$4,400**

Australia, Isle of Refuge, 2009, printed 2015

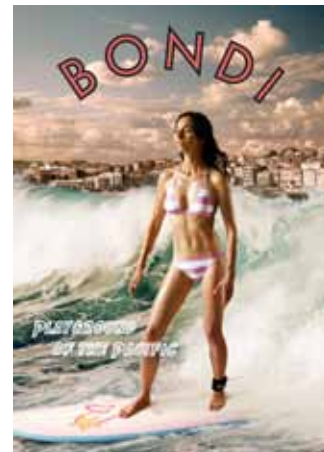
Cronulla, Jewel of the Shire, 2010, printed 2015

Bondi, Playground of the Pacific, 2009, printed 2015

Manly, Surfing Capital, 2015

Bronte Beach, Refreshante!, 2009, printed 2015

Manly, Still Going Strong!, 2015



Manly, South Pacific Playground, from the series *Homeground*, 2015, archival pigment ink print, signed, titled, dated and editioned in ink verso, 59.5 x 89cm.

Edition of 7 plus 2 A/P's.

\$4,400



Untitled (Figures on Manly Beach after Nancy Kilgour), 2015, archival pigment ink print, signed, titled, dated and editioned in ink verso, 76 x 115cm.

Edition of 5 plus 2 A/P's.

\$6,600

The background of this work was taken (literally) from the painting by Nancy Kilgour (circa 1930) which depicts the south end of Manly Beach. Kilgour's painting was in itself based on the Impressionist painting *Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grand Jatte* by Georges Seurat in 1884. The artist, Anne Zahalka has said of this "I'm intrigued that Nancy Kilgour has reflected on Seurat's early painting almost as an early post modern gesture. I enjoyed thinking about the fact that Nancy had chosen this relatively modern painting to draw inspiration from.... it was a wonderful new stimulus for me." *

The background image in the series of portraits in *Manly: Playground of the Pacific*, 2015 was created digitally by removing the figures from Kilgour's painting and reproducing it as a large vinyl backdrop including the recognisable apartment blocks at Manly's south end.

* 'Anne Zahalka in conversation with Curator Ross Heathcote', *Anne Zahalka: Playground of the Pacific*, exhibition catalogue, Manly Art Gallery and Museum, 2015.



The following titles are from the series *Manly: Playground of the Pacific*, which consists of 25 portraits, all are archival pigment ink prints, signed, titled, dated and editioned in ink verso, 40.5 x 55.8cm. An illustrated list is available on request.

Edition of 5 plus 2 A/P's.

Each \$3,300

***The Couple*, 2015**

***The Dog Minder*, 2015**

***The Plein-air Artists*, 2015**



Inside the front cover: ***The Artist*, 2015**

Vintage Collection

Bondi: Playground of the Pacific

This exceptional collection of photographs is from the original exhibition *Bondi: Playground of the Pacific* held in 1989 at the Bondi Pavilion Gallery. It contains rare and unique images including iconic works from the show not seen since this first exhibition. New prints were made for the AGNSW and the NGV for the inaugural Hallmark Card Collection but the original series remains intact.

The collection consists of forty-nine (49) Type C prints mounted on their original backing, each signed, dated and titled verso. This is the only complete set of original prints from the exhibition with extra working proofs in existence. It is the first time they have been offered for sale as a collection by Anne Zahalka.

An illustrated list with the artist's background information is available on request. The collection **\$295,000**

