



# BELINDA ALLEN

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## BIOGRAPHY

Since graduating with the prize in Printmaking at the South Australian School of Art, Belinda Allen has worked for many years in a variety of printing, photographic and digital media, sometimes incorporating painting, drawing and sculptural assemblage. She lives in Bundeena in the Royal National Park south of Sydney, and exhibits in solo and group exhibitions in Sydney and nationally. Her work has been selected in recent years for exhibition in the Blake Prize, the 'Sydney Life' Photographic exhibition in Hyde Park, Sydney, the Hazelhurst Biennial Art on Paper award, the Olive Cotton Portrait prize, and the National Work on Paper Prize. See <http://belindaallen.com.au> for more information.

*Australia Felix mandala (From The Timeless Land, 2014)*

## ARTWORK

My photographic and mixed-media work explores 'landscape' as a metaphor for human relationship to environment, culture and heritage.

The series 'Sacred Sites' (2002-present) creates mandala-like representations of natural landscapes, promoting a spiritual perspective on landscape, with the idea that each of us has our own 'sacred sites' – those places that are embedded in our lives, and associated with a sense of rapture, of connection to a realm beyond the mundane.

In the series 'Too Much Ask' (2010) and 'The Timeless Land' (2014), Australian landscapes are juxtaposed and overlaid with texts and images representing the experiences of Australian writers, explorers, settlers and indigenous people, querying the lenses through which we view landscape and what is meant by 'belonging' to land.

Current work, *Palimpsest: Sacred and Profane*, ventures further afield and draws on imagery and texts from the 'old world', drawing out synergies and contradictions that illustrate the complex impact of history and culture on contemporary sense of 'place'.

As well as photographed textures of natural and urban landscape, sources for my work include mythological, historical and religious texts, documents and literature.

*Belinda Allen, 2016*

## EXHIBITIONS (selected)

### 2017

- Palimpsest - Two-man exhibition - Hazelhurst Gallery, Hazelhurst, Gymea
- Art on Paper Award finalist, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery, Gymea

### 2016

- National Works on Paper Biennial - finalist, Mornington Peninsula Gallery
- Fisher's Ghost Art Prize - finalist, Campbelltown Regional Gallery

### 2015

- Olive Cotton Portrait Prize - finalist, Tweed River Gallery.
- Art on Paper Award finalist, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery, Gymea

### 2014

- *Recovering Roots ...* Two-man exhibition - Hazelhurst Gallery, Gymea

### 2013

- Olive Cotton Portrait Prize - finalist, Tweed River Gallery.

### 2012

- *Alien in our midst*, Two-man exhibition, HeadOn Photo Festival)
- Blake Prize Director's Cut Exhibition

### 2011

- *'Too much ask'* – Solo exhibition - Hazelhurst Gallery, Gymea
- Blake Prize Director's Cut Exhibition
- Art on Paper Award finalist, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery, Gymea

### 2010

- Blake Prize Director's Cut Exhibition
- Stanthorpe Art Festival, Stanthorpe Regional Art Gallery, Qld.
- Outback Art Prize finalist, Broken Hill Regional Gallery
- Photography Award finalist, Muswellbrook Regional Gallery

### 2009

- Art on Paper Award finalist, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery, Gymea

### 2007

- 'Southern Exposure V', Time Dome Akashi, Tokyo
- Art on Paper Award finalist - Hazelhurst Regional Gallery, Gymea
- *Tribes & Totems*, Community Spirit Gallery, Caringbah

### 2006

- 'Southern Exposure V', Hazelhurst Regional Gallery, Gymea
- 'CHIASMA' - Three-man exhibition - Hazelhurst Gallery, Gymea
- Blake Prize - finalist, National Art School Gallery
- 'Sydney Life' Photography prize, Art & About, Hyde Park, Sydney
- ERGON Energy Award, Gold Coast Regional Gallery (acquired)

### 2005

- 'Southern Exposure IV', Hazelhurst Regional Gallery, Gymea

### 2004

- 'Environmental Art Award' (Highly Commended), TAP Gallery, Sydney

### 2003

- 'Naturally Inspired', Group photo show, Hazelhurst Community Gallery
- 'Southern Exposure III', Hazelhurst Regional Gallery, Gymea
- 'Environmental Art Award', Winner - TAP Gallery, Sydney
- Art on Paper Award finalist - Hazelhurst Regional Gallery, Gymea

### 2002

- 'Southern Exposure II', Hazelhurst Reg. Gallery
- 'Environmental Art Award', Winner - People's Choice