

FESTIVAL OF PHOTOGRAPHY

BILL HENSON

ARTWORK LABELS

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‘Beauty is richer in the mysterious ways of remoteness than anything you have within yourself.’

ELIAS CANETTI

Bill Henson was born in Australia in 1955, and has a distinguished career spanning more than forty years. His distinctive concerns have encompassed many themes, including portraits, nudes, museum interiors and landscapes. The works included in *Bill Henson* continue the artist’s sensitive, sophisticated study of the human condition. They are a suite of photographs from the artist’s larger, ongoing series that has been compiled by the artist himself and that brings together images of sublime landscapes, nudes and Classical sculpture shown in museum settings.

Henson’s nudes show his subjects as self-contained, focused on their own internal reveries; his landscapes are photographed at twilight, that transitional moment at the end of each day; and his museum images juxtapose graceful marble statues with visitors transfixed observing them. Like much of Henson’s work, there is little that is explicit about these photographs; rather, they propose open-ended narratives that capture a transitory mood or sensation, and together they form a powerful and enigmatic imaginative statement.

The NGV is delighted to present this remarkable exhibition made possible through the extraordinary generosity of Bill Bowness. By presenting the Gallery with twenty-one photographs by Henson, Bowness has ensured that the NGV holds the most significant collection of Henson’s work in any public institution.

Untitled

2008/09

inkjet print, ed. 5/5

Gift of William Donald Bowness through
the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program, 2016

2016.713

Untitled

2008/09

inkjet print, ed. 2/5

Gift of William Donald Bowness through
the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program, 2016

2016.714

Untitled

2008/09

inkjet print, ed. 1/5

Gift of William Donald Bowness through
the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program, 2016

2016.716

Untitled

2008/09

inkjet print, ed. 5/5

Gift of William Donald Bowness through
the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program, 2016

2016.717

Untitled

2008/09

inkjet print, ed. 3/5

Gift of William Donald Bowness through
the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program, 2016

2016.718

Untitled

2008/09

inkjet print, ed. 1/5

Gift of William Donald Bowness through
the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program, 2016

2016.719

Untitled

2009/10

inkjet print, ed. 2/5

Purchased, Victorian Foundation
for Living Australian Artists, 2011

2012.9

Untitled

2009/10

inkjet print, ed. 2/5

Purchased, Victorian Foundation
for Living Australian Artists, 2012

2012.10

Untitled

2009/10

inkjet print, ed. 2/5

Gift of William Donald Bowness through
the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program, 2016

2016.715

Untitled

2009/10

inkjet print, ed. 2/5

Gift of William Donald Bowness through
the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program, 2016

2016.722

Untitled

2009/10

inkjet print, ed. 5/5

Gift of William Donald Bowness through
the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program, 2016

2016.723

Untitled

2009/10

inkjet print, ed. 3/5

Gift of William Donald Bowness through
the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program, 2016

2016.725

Untitled

2009/10

inkjet print, ed. 2/5

Gift of William Donald Bowness through
the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program, 2016

2016.726

Untitled

2009/10

inkjet print, artist's proof 2

Gift of William Donald Bowness through
the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program, 2016

2016.727

Untitled

2009/10

inkjet print, artist's proof 1

Gift of William Donald Bowness through
the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program, 2016

2016.728

Untitled

2009/10

inkjet print, ed. 3/5

Gift of William Donald Bowness through
the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program, 2016

2016.729

Untitled

2010/11

inkjet print, ed. 1/5

Gift of William Donald Bowness through
the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program, 2016

2016.730

Untitled

2010/11

inkjet print, ed. 2/5

Gift of William Donald Bowness through
the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program, 2016

2016.733

Untitled

2011/12

inkjet print, ed. 3/5

Gift of William Donald Bowness through
the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program, 2016

2016.720

Untitled

2011/12

inkjet print, ed. 2/5

Gift of William Donald Bowness through
the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program, 2016

2016.721

Untitled

2011/12

inkjet print, ed. 3/5

Gift of William Donald Bowness through
the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program, 2016

2016.731

Untitled

2011/12

inkjet print, ed. 1/5

Gift of William Donald Bowness through
the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program, 2016

2016.732

Untitled

2012/13

inkjet print, ed. 1/3

Gift of William Donald Bowness through
the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program, 2016

2016.724