



Rex Dupain: The Colour of Bondi

17 August – 23 September 2007

Bondi shines under the talented eye of one of Australia's most intuitive photographers.

Under the full glare of the Australian sun, Bondi and its iconic beach never fails to capture our attention. Internationally acclaimed photographer **Rex Dupain** has covered every aspect of Bondi - the world of the surfers, bathers, backpackers, swimmers, divers and divas that inhabit the famous strip. **Forty-seven full colour photographs have been specially printed & selected for exhibition at the National Trust S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney.**

Rex Dupain lives and works in Sydney and has photographed his home city many times over, however, it is Bondi, Australia's most recognised beach suburb, that continues to be his inspirational space.

I tend to have a love/hate relationship with the place, says Dupain, there are some pretty tatty sides to the architecture, but Bondi & its natural environment is such a colourful place. There is so much energy. Whether it's the northern or southern end or in the middle – in terms of subject matter & photography - there's always something going on.

Rex Dupain was born in Sydney in 1954, the son of Diana Illingworth & Max Dupain (1911–1992), one of Australia's foremost photographers. Rex started taking photographs at the age of 4 when he was given a camera as a gift from his father. He later became the official school photographer at Sydney Grammar School where he attended as a student from 1964 to 1972. Rex then attended the National Art School as a student and later as a teacher. During the 1970s & '80s he carved a successful career painting the Australian landscape and for 22 years did not use a camera.

After my father's death in 1992, I had a curious urge to try. All Dads' negatives were lost in a bitter court case and one day I just wanted to start photographing again. What I found was that after years at art school and painting, I had trained my eye and this self-induced apprenticeship meant that I was ready to carry on the baton, said Dupain.

Since then Rex Dupain's photography has been the subject of five publications including 'Bondi to Broken Hill' 1998, 'Australian Images' 2002, 'Inside Sydney' 2004, 'Colour of Bondi' 2006 and 'Inside Sydney Grammar School' 2007. Rex's work has been shown in a dozen exhibitions both in Australia and abroad including the highly successful 'Max and Rex Dupain's Sydney' at the Museum of Sydney which was attended by over 27,000 visitors.

Rex's work appears at International photography fairs in New York and London and on the secondary market at sales conducted by the major international auction houses. Rex Dupain is represented in public & private collections including Australian Museum, the collection of Sir Elton John, Pat Corrigan, Malcolm Turnbull and Robert Hughes to name a few.

Rex Dupain: The Colour of Bondi
National Trust S.H. Ervin Gallery, Observatory Hill, The Rocks, Sydney
Public viewing: 17 August – 23 September 2007

Rex Dupain is available for interview. Selected images available for media use.
Further information: Leah Haynes: lhaynes@nsw.nationaltrust.org.au PH: 02 9258 0150

Watson Road, Observatory Hill, The Rocks, Sydney
(car entry from Argyle Street)

Gallery Hours: Tuesday to Sunday 11am – 5pm
Admission: \$6, \$4 National Trust members, seniors & concessions
General Information: 02 9258 0173
Media information: 02 9258 0150
Administration & Group Bookings: 02 9258 0140
Education/School Group Bookings: 02 9258 0122
Email: shervingallery@nsw.nationaltrust.org.au
Public Program of Guest Speakers: Sundays @ 3pm
Exhibition Introductory Floor Talk: Tuesdays @ midday
Trust Café, Arts Bookshop & parking onsite. Group bookings & tours welcome.
Visit our website: www.nsw.nationaltrust.org.au

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SPECIAL EVENT

National Trust Charity Art Auction

47 x Photographs by Rex Dupain, *The Colour of Bondi* Monday 24 September, 6.00 pm

A unique opportunity to acquire a highly collectable, original Rex Dupain colour photograph of iconic Bondi beach. All works from *The Colour of Bondi* exhibition (large format c-type photographs, each 100 x 100cm, numbered 1 or 2 from an edition of 10 only), will be auctioned by Tim Goodman, Chief Executive Officer, Bonhams & Goodman, following the conclusion of the exhibition.

"We are very excited at the prospect of conducting this auction. There is a great deal of interest in photography on the secondary market and a great deal of interest in Rex Dupain. I am not aware of there ever having been an auction of the contents of an exhibition at a public institution."

Tim Goodman, CEO, Bonhams & Goodman.

With thanks to the artist, Josef Lebovic Gallery and Bonhams & Goodman, this charity art auction will raise important funds for the National Trust and the S.H. Ervin Gallery's ongoing exhibition & education programs. Auction catalogue & further event details will be available during the exhibition dates 17 August - 23 September 2007.

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Rex Dupain acknowledges the support of



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