

SHOWCASE



A Candle to See By, Wiley Park, Sydney "This was taken with a very fast, 3200ASA film, to get more light sensitivity so that I could use a higher shutter speed. At the printing stage I concentrated on having the girl's face lit by the candle, with no distracting elements in the black background."

alan bennett

ENJOY IMAGES OF EXTRAORDINARY SENSITIVITY AND EXPRESSION
FROM 1997'S NIKON/PANORAMA SHOWCASE PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR.

Nikon

urban art



By Rebecca Flood

A life of snapshots has kept Balmain resident Alan Bennett very busy. A photographer at heart, his latest work exhibits shots from Australia and across the globe, exposing some of his most loved photographic moments.

Black and White is the newest of series of group shows by Rozelle's Gallery Xposure. As one of only a small number of galleries dedicated especially to photography, the gallery has selected four of Australia's finest photographers to form part of the group exhibition.

As one of the four, Alan is proud to show several black and white pieces which he found particular visually expression. Amongst the many photos, Sydney, Pyrmont, Bondi and Luna Park feature prominently. However also on display are images from overseas. One of the artist's favourite shots, Tunnel Vision, depicting the London underground also forms part of the extensive portfolio on display.

Alan's artwork is neither landscape, street photography or any specific form - it is simply what his artistic eye sees.

"I don't like to pigeonhole myself in a particular category. If it's in front of me and it's visually interesting, I'll take a picture of it," he said.

"Once I've got a camera in my hand and there's something I get excited about, I photograph it.

With over 25 years experience, he has travelled the world to exotic places such as Nepal, and achieved various prestigious awards such as the Nikon/Panorama Photographer of the Year. Alex maintains his talents were born from a natural affiliation with the camera. Despite his highly regarded artistic ability, the photographer admits that photography was a choice rather than a calling.

"I wasn't a talented artist, I couldn't draw or paint, but photography was a way I could express my creative sensibilities," he said.

For Alan, art became a way of capturing a unique perspective - a task which he believes photography performs perfectly.

"It's about challenging yourself to see things in a way that no one else sees it," he said.

"When you have a camera, you are actually looking for different ways to see things."

Talent clear in black and white

ART

Kate Sullivan

BALMAIN photographer Alan Bennett has been named as a finalist in one of the world's top competitions.

He was nominated in both the fine art and sport categories of the 2007 Black and White Spider Awards, which recognise excellence in black and white photography.

Thousands of images were received from more than 60 countries and the nominated photographers were selected by a judging panel from the international photography community, including Magnum Photos, LIFE Magazine, the Tate Gallery and the Leica Photo Gallery.

Bennett's two photos received a high percentage of votes.

"The Spider Awards celebrate photographers who operate at the highest levels of their craft," creative director Basil O'Brien said. "Alan Bennett's entries certainly represent black and white imaging at its finest, and we're pleased to present him with nominations."

Bennett, from Media Imaging Solutions in Balmain, said the Black and White Spider Awards is the leading international award honouring excellence in black and white photography.

"This celebrated event shines a spotlight on the best professional and amateur photographers worldwide."

The winners' gallery is online at www.thespiderawards.com



One of Balmain photographer Alan Bennett's shots.