



Anne ZAHALKA
Sunday, 2:09pm 1995
from the series *Open House*
type C photograph
Courtesy the artist, Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery (Sydney)
and Arc One Gallery (Melbourne)

HALL OF MIRRORS: ANNE ZAHALKA PORTRAITS 1987-2007

A NETS VICTORIA TOURING EXHIBITION DEVELOPED BY THE
CENTRE FOR CONTEMPORARY PHOTOGRAPHY

CURATED BY KARRA REES

Hall of Mirrors: Anne Zahalka Portraits 1987-2007 explores the thread of portraiture through the prolific career of one of Australia's pre-eminent photomedia artists. Featuring many iconic images, this major survey exhibition toured by National Exhibitions Touring Support (NETS) Victoria and developed by the Centre for Contemporary Photography will also introduce audiences to previously unseen portraits.

Curated by Karra Rees, *Hall of Mirrors* examines portraiture, representation and identity throughout Zahalka's celebrated career, which spans more than 20 years. Zahalka's portraits reveal more than just the individual – with an ironic and critical voice the images cleverly subvert stereotypes while capturing subcultures and a spirit of the times with acute observation.

Featuring over 70 works, *Hall of Mirrors* brings together Zahalka's renowned imagery, introduces previously unseen portraits from several series, and also showcases new works commissioned for this major touring exhibition. Visitors will be able to view images from such memorable series as *Resemblance* (1987) and *Bondi: Playground of the Pacific* (1989), as well as *Open House* (1995) and *Welcome to Sydney* (2002), which was commissioned by the Sydney Airport Authority. Newly commissioned portraits of artists will also be presented along with a selection of self-portraits from the artist's archive.

Portraiture for Zahalka has been a consistent, evolving and multi-layered practice. From the self-conscious stage-setting of her earlier works to the later images presented in a more documentary vein, the idea that appearances can be deceptive has been central to Zahalka's practice. Tampering with truth in representation, blurring the boundary between reality and fiction, Zahalka uses a variety of photomedia techniques. Incorporating photomontage, double exposure, darkroom trickery and digital manipulation, her practice has consistently enquired into the nature of image-making and its relationship to the world around us.

Georgia Cribb, Director of National Exhibitions Touring Support (NETS) Victoria said, "This major touring exhibition recognises Anne Zahalka's status as one of Australia's most highly regarded contemporary artists working with photography.

"It is the largest exhibition NETS Victoria has undertaken in its 18 year history and will travel to 11 venues throughout Victoria, the Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia and Tasmania," Cribb explained.

Hall of Mirrors will be launched at Warrnambool Art Gallery on 15 September 2007 and will finish in Gippsland Art Gallery, Sale in February 2010.

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