

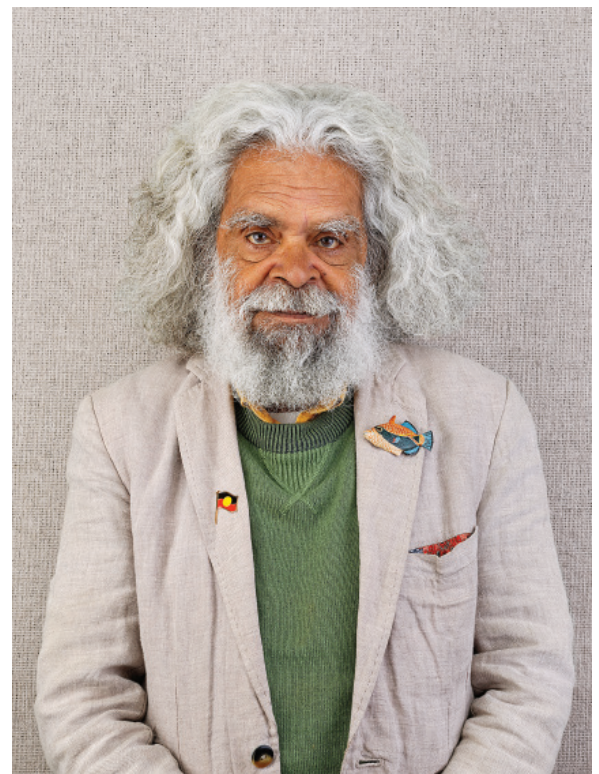
DUO Magazine Percival Photographic Portrait Prize 10 May – 13 July 2014

The much-anticipated inaugural winner of the \$10,000 *DUO Magazine Percival Photographic Portrait Prize* was announced at the opening celebration on Friday 16 May 2014. Scott Morrison, Publisher and Creative Director of major sponsor DUO Magazine, had the honour of reading out the winning artist's name, Roderick McNicol, to a capacity crowd.

The winning work, entitled *The Late Blossoming of Jack Charles*, is a traditional portrait of the highly regarded actor. The sitter's direct gaze is extremely compelling, and the photographer has cleverly balanced a number of rich textures.

The finalists' works – 75 in total selected from an initial 167 entries – were judged by Suzanne Buljan, Director of the Australian Centre for Photography. With a high quality of entries received from all corners of the nation, the judging was a difficult process.

Buljan said of her selection of Roderick McNicol's work as the \$10,000 prize winner, "*In an era of the rapid fire digestion of imagery via the 24 hour news cycle and social media, it was a pleasure to take a moment and stop. To take a moment to contemplate and appreciate the art of photographic portraiture. Roderick McNicol's winning photograph titled, The Late Blossoming of Jack Charles, is a stunning portrayal of a life story captured in a moment. With a sensibility reminiscent of the portraits of German born photographers Thomas Ruff and Thomas Struth (both out of the Dusseldorf Academy), this image generously allows the subject to speak with honesty and grace; for Jack and his story to come a little closer to his audience.*"



“The inaugural DUO Magazine Percival Photographic Portrait Prize presented a great challenge. McNicol’s winning portrait, in company with many deserved winners clearly stood out for its clarity, beautiful composition, aesthetic treatment and technical ability above and beyond the quieter considerations of genre, scale, narrative and subject choice. It was a privilege to be invited to judge this inaugural award.”

Born in Melbourne in 1946, McNicol attended the Prahran College, studying Photography, in 1974, attained his Master of Fine Arts from Monash University in 2007. He has exhibited his work widely in solo and group exhibitions, and is a previous winner of prestigious prizes such as **The National Photographic Portrait Prize** (2012), and **The Australian Photographic Portrait Prize** (2004).

In describing the work, McNicol stated, *“Actor and elder Jack Charles’ career is, indeed, going through a remarkable late blossoming. And this late blossoming is all the more poignant given the chequered nature of his life until fairly recently. Part of the stolen generation, Jack has had a long, if at times interrupted, career in film and in theatre. Parallel to this, however, there has been a darker life of drug abuse, crime and internment.”*

“Over the last few years, however, with his drug dependency well and truly behind him, Jack’s acting career is really flourishing, and he is now thriving in his new role as mentor to his community.”

Shane Fitzgerald, Manager Gallery Services said, *“Suzanne has picked a stand out work as the very first winner of this significant exhibition. Sponsorship from DUO Magazine has enabled The Percivals to grow to new heights and become a more holistic celebration of portraiture, and we’re very grateful for their partnership.”*

Councillor Sue Blom said of **The Percivals**, *“Following on from last week’s opening of the Glencore Percival Portrait Painting Prize, this photographic exhibition further emphasises the quality of this initiative, and of the quality of the participating artists both from our region and further afield.”*






Scott Morrison from DUO Magazine said, *“We decided to sponsor the DUO Magazine Percival Photographic Portrait Prize to encourage photographers to go beyond what is comfortable and take on the challenge of capturing an image that reveals the ‘inner person’ of the subject. Roderick McNicol has done this tremendously, and we send our sincere congratulations to the artist on being the prize’s inaugural winner.”*

The winning work entered the DUO Magazine private collection.

Image: Roderick McNicol The Late Blossoming of Jack Charles Archival Digital Print, 80 x 65 cm

Pinnacles Gallery

Riverway Arts Centre
20 Village Blvd
Thuringowa Central QLD 4817
Closed Mondays
Tues - Fri: 10am - 5pm
Sat - Sun: 10am - 5pm

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