

# ANITA TRAVERSO GALLERY

## JENNY BOLIS

The Australian award-winning fine-art photographer Jenny Bolis's work successfully blurs the line between reality and fantasy and masterfully explores the transformative qualities of light. In this work, the photographic process is stripped down to its essential ingredient - the fall of light on a subject. The backgrounds are lost, shadows have disappeared and the silence sets in.



### *Psychology of Trees 02*

[2009] Chromogenic print [edn. 4/5], 187cm x 127 cm, framed

exhibitions: 2009 *Psychology of Trees* - Anita Traverso Gallery, Melbourne, Australia

publications: Ashley Crawford "Unspoken Emotion – Jenny Bolis" in *Photofile*, 2009, Issue #89 pp. 8 – 10 [image p.9]

*The Psychology of Trees* – a book of photographic prints

*The Psychology of Trees 02* belonged to a series of 17 images, which were published in a book in 2009.

"The female figures presented in Bolis's photographs, are always seen alone – as if in a noirish fable – A woman, inside, reading a book, seen from behind, the nape of her neck exposed – which offers a clue to the imaginary realm into which Jenny Bolis' images want to take us. These women are not specific people, but ciphers, or portals to this dream world of trees & literature (which is why we never see their faces). Their sensual world – hair, skin, fabric, leather, book pages, walls – is intensified by barely-lit surface textures, with all their expressive but muted tonality. Trees have long been considered a metaphoric symbol of life – specifically of fertility, endurance, knowledge and creativity. Spurred on by the anthropomorphism suggested by the title, Bolis invites us to speculate on the particular qualities and consciousness of the trees depicted in the half-light of her photographs." Text by Dr Daniel Palmer & Kate Rhodes

## FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Items that best illustrate the physical, artistic, cultural, social, historical and political identity of the municipality of Yarra:

Jenny Bolis conducts her art practice out of the Red Box art studios in Collingwood. As an established female artist her practice is steeped with the cultural, social, political and historical context of the City of Yarra whilst also contributing to its social and cultural history as an active and prominent member of the Yarra arts community.

- Items that do not require immediate and considerable additional resources related to conservation and storage:

This work is framed to archival standards (Chapman & Bailey) and is equipped with hanging mechanism for easy storage.

- Artworks that represent emerging innovative art forms:

Jenny Bolis's series are compiled into limited edition art books, which are sold nationally at public institutions such as the NGV and art bookstores, as well as in selected locations overseas. These art books are also accompanied by academic essays, written by noteworthy authors such as Ashley Crawford, Megg Minos, Dr Anne Marsh, Dr Daniel Palmer & Kate Rhodes.

- Items that have the potential for display and exhibition:

The chosen item is particularly excellent in consideration for display or exhibition within a number of council contexts.

- Artworks which are of high quality, by respected emerging and mid career artists:

Jenny Bolis is a renowned mid career artist whose work is not only included in several photography publications but is also critically admired by photographic curators like Naomi Cass of Centre for Contemporary Photography. The standard of Bolis's work is on par with photographers like Bill Henson, in its approach to the medium, execution and also in that of having an extremely active career, producing a published series annually.

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