

# **BullsEye**

An exhibition of new colour photographs

by Sean Davey



Cairns, Queensland, Australia

April 6 – May 29 2010

Everything is available to be photographed, yet not everything makes a good photograph. This is the dartboard at which Sean Davey takes aim. Over and over again he will shoot at the most obvious things that he sees, and time and time again he will struggle with missing the target. Sometimes he gets close, and a lot of the time he misses the board all together. Only very rarely will he score a bulls eye.

**BullsEye** is an exhibition of nineteen photographs made by Sean Davey in 2009 and 2010. These photographs were all made with a medium format camera, something of an oddity considering their unusually casual subject matter; a discarded jacket, a carnival machine (where the prize for trying your luck is a small kola bear holding the Australian flag), a parking meter and yes indeed, a dartboard. The title for this exhibition only came about after Sean saw this image while preparing photographs for the show. It is an apt title, one that suggests perfection, a direct hit, a focused and diligent effort rewarded with maximum point score. But we all know just how elusive those bulls eye shots really are, and the shredded wall on which this dartboard hangs is evidence of just how many shots have gone awry.

Sean's direct, front on style with which he photographs, reveals that he is not concerned with missing the target with most of his shots. There are no artistic angles here, the images are refreshingly unpretentious and direct, and they are in keeping with Sean's maturing style of image making. We are freed from the ego of the photographer in these pictures and left to look at the things that caught his eye, just as he saw them. It is obvious from this selection of nineteen photographs that many more have been made to make this small compilation ready for exhibition. And if you ask Sean how many photographs he has made since he has been living in Cairns, you may be surprised to learn that he has shot hundreds upon hundreds, from which this selection has been made.

Sean is the first to admit that most of his photographs are failures. He is aware that his reaction to things is not entirely sufficient to produce good images, it is only the start. But an honest reaction and an unflinching eye is the only start that counts. From here, the process of his photography moves to the negative, where a new truth is revealed. The truth of the image. It is only now that the original subject which has been photographed is of no concern. Now it is only about the image itself and that image has to have its own strength, its own voice. In presenting photographs of these things that we all know and have seen everywhere (even if they are not the exact things we know), Sean is not trying to tell us anything. He is not saying, 'Look at this, look at what beauty the everyday has to offer.' Instead, Sean is quietly presenting these images so that he himself can look at what he has been photographing. Sean is looking at these pictures so that he can keep looking and continue to make more.

BullsEye is part of the 2010 Queensland Festival of Photography program

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Partial list of works



*Cooktown, Qld (Bathroom Sink)*  
(2010)



*Cooktown, Qld (Spare Bed)*  
(2010)



*Yungaburra, Qld (Man at Pub)*  
(2009)



*Holloways Beach, Qld (Dolls)*  
(2009)



*Cairns, Qld (Letterbox)*  
(2009)



*Bellenden Ker, Qld (Oil Drums)*  
(2009)

All photographs are available in an edition of 15 + 2 artist proofs.  
More images are available upon request at [sean@pidgin.com.au](mailto:sean@pidgin.com.au)