

PRESS RELEASE



Forthcoming exhibition: Solitude

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Ian Kemp, a fine art photographer based in Ballarat, presents "Solitary," a compelling exhibition that delves into themes of isolation and the transient nature of life, officially opening at the St Arnaud Raillery Hub Gallery on Saturday 1 June at 2pm.

Kemp's journey into photography began later in life, culminating in his graduation from the Photography Studies College in Melbourne in 2017. His connection to the Wimmera Mallee started during his early career as a teacher and School Principal at Wycheproof.

Kemp's artistic evolution has been significantly influenced by Silvi Glattauer of Baldessin Press, who introduced him to the photogravure process, a technique that marries digital imagery with traditional intaglio printing.

His works often use nature as a metaphor to explore the impermanence of human existence.

In "Solitary," this exploration extends to a profound sense of isolation that permeates the images. The landscapes of Argentina featured in the exhibition transport viewers to remote places visited by fewer than a thousand people annually, emphasising solitude.

During the Covid-19 lockdowns, Kemp captured aluminium works devoid of human presence, reflecting the enforced seclusion of that period. His portrait models, absorbed in their own worlds, avoid eye contact, further underscoring the theme of isolation.

The increasing recognition of Kemp's work, marked by a series of solo exhibitions this year, highlights his unique ability to depict ephemeral beauty. In 2024, Kemp's exhibitions commence at St Arnaud and will also include a showcase at Horsham Art Gallery from September 14 to November 17, and "In Solitude" at Central Goldfields Gallery from November 23 to February 2, 2025.

His group exhibitions include one at Gallery 10, Ballarat in September-October. These exhibitions underscore Kemp's growing influence in the art world and his distinctive artistic vision.

About Ian Kemp:

Ian Kemp's photographic journey began in 2012 with the Goldfields Image Makers in Maryborough. Moving to Ballarat in 2014, he joined the Soldiers Hill Artist Collective. His work, which has received international recognition, includes commissions for private clients and businesses. 2024 marks a breakout year for Kemp, with multiple solo exhibitions showcasing his distinctive artistic vision.

Awards and Exhibitions: 2023:

- Solo Exhibitions: "Neverlasting" at the Art Gallery of Ballarat, August 17-October 21; Mr Jones Dining Ballarat; Canberra Hotel
- SHAC Exhibitions in Ballarat
- Published in Inside Imaging (August edition)

Career highlights include numerous solo and group exhibitions across prestigious galleries and art spaces, recognition in international competitions, including Australasia's Top emerging Photographers and published works and commissioned pieces for various entities.

Ian Kemp's "Solitary" is a testament to his evolving craft and his ability to capture the essence of isolation and impermanence through his lens. This exhibition invites us to look beyond the surface and feel the profound solitude embedded in each image. The exhibition can be viewed Friday to Sunday from 11am to 4pm until 21 July.

#ends

Contact Curator Ruth Jabornik for interview arrangements on mobile 0427 939 660