



## Fine Art Photography by Hayley Roberts

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## Artist Statement



When I was young I was enchanted with the fairy tales my parents read to me before bed, believing the world was full of magic and mystery. Through photography I am able to bring to life the kinds of magical stories I adored as a child. These are the stories that bend and break the rules of reality. Where magic is a part of the fabric of the universe.

I am a self-taught photographer who learnt my craft photographing landscapes and animals. Now I use trick photography and Photoshop to composite pieces of these images into larger scenes, while using characters, costumes, props and posing to convey my stories.

In contrast with my interest in magic I am equally fascinated by “looking behind the curtain” and studying creative techniques that defy reality. Tricks like levitation, miniature people, special effects and double exposures; I am obsessed with learning and replicating these techniques in my work. This is why I ran the ‘Exposing Illusions’ project on my website where I studied and used various techniques and then wrote tutorials to teach others the process. I guess I’m the kind of magician who reveals their tricks. But for me the true art is the process of creation and not the end result.

When I’m not creating magical worlds I work in a library. Every day I’m surrounded by thousands of stories that help people escape from reality for a time. I hope that my images also provide a temporary retreat from the monotony of life’s routines, helping people recapture their childhood wonder.

Nature, and our relationship to it, is also a strong theme in my work. I am currently working on developing a series of creative portraits in iconic locations around Australia to give a voice to the landscape. These stories will draw inspiration from history and Dreamtime to create a contemporary cultural identity for everyone to engage with.

- Hayley Roberts

## Biography

Throughout her life Hayley has rarely been without a camera in her hands. Using trick photography and Photoshop manipulation she creates illusions that blend fantasy into the every day. Through the use of costumes, props and posing her conceptual portraits tell imaginative stories which seek to delight, inspire and provide an escape from reality, helping people recapture the wonder they felt hearing stories as a child. She is currently working on a project creating stories inspired by history within Australian landscapes.

To develop her technique she ran the Exposing Illusions project through her website where she studied and emulated different creative photography techniques in her work, while teaching and inspiring others to do the same. She also writes a travel blog highlighting tourist destinations and showcasing her travel photography to provoke wanderlust.

Hayley's work has been showcased in a solo exhibition at The Hub Gallery, Caboolture and a joint exhibition at Left Bank Gallery on the Gold Coast as well as numerous group exhibitions. Her work has been featured in publications including PhotoPlus Magazine, Stubborn Magazine, Australian Avant Garde Magazine, CrowdInk, Our Narangba Magazine, the Huffington Post, Bored Panda and Digital Photography School, as well as a number of book covers. Her portraits have been finalists in the Heritage Bank Photographic Awards, MAMA National Photography Prize, The Royal Queensland Show, Milburn Art Prize, PhotoPlace Gallery's 'Imagined Realities' competition, Petite Pieces, Myself Prize, Clayton Utz Art Awards, Brisbane Art Awards, William & Winifred Bowness Photography Prize 2016, and the Contemporary Art Awards.



## Exhibitions

Jun 2017	Joint exhibition – Weaving Illusions, Left Bank Gallery
May 2017	Group exhibition – Snap, Aspire Gallery
Feb 2017	Group exhibition – Petite Pieces, Aspire Gallery
Oct 2016	Group exhibition – Myself Prize 2016, Jugglers Art Space
Oct 2016	Group exhibition – Clayton Utz Art Awards 2016, Clayton Utz office Brisbane
Sep 2016	Group Exhibition – Bowness Photographic Prize, Monash Gallery of Art
Sep 2016	Group Exhibition - Heritage Bank Photographic Awards, Artsworx
Aug 2016	Group Exhibition – Brisbane Art Prize, Judith Wright Centre
May 2016	Group Exhibition - MAMA Art Foundation National Photography Prize, Murray Art Museum Albury
May 2016	Group Exhibition - Milburn Art Prize, Brisbane Institute of Art
Mar 2016	Solo Exhibition – Exposing Illusions, The Hub Gallery, Caboolture Regional Art Gallery, Brisbane
Oct 2015	Art Fair - Raw Brisbane, The Met, Fortitude Valley



## Awards

Petite Pieces 2016, Finalist

Myself Prize 2016, Finalist

Clayton Utz Art Awards 2016, Finalist

Heritage Bank Photographic Awards, Runner Up, Open category

Royal Queensland Show 2016, First prize and two Highly Commendeds, Creative category

Brisbane Art Prize 2016, Finalist

William & Winifred Bowness Photography Prize 2016, Finalist

PhotoPlace Gallery's 'Imagined Realities' Competition 2016, Finalist

Conceptual Magazine's Spring Challenge 2016, First Prize

MAMA Art Foundation National Photography Prize 2016, Finalist

Milburn Art Prize 2016, Finalist

Contemporary Art Awards Australia 2015, Finalist



# Digital Press

Artsy Shark

<http://www.artsyshark.com/2016/03/23/featured-artist-hayley-roberts/>

boredpanda

<http://www.boredpanda.com/trick-photography-photo-illusions-hayley-roberts/>  
<http://www.boredpanda.com/a-newborn-photo-shoot-with-a-difference/>

CrowdInk

<http://crowdink.com/editorpick/artist-month-hayley-roberts-creates-enchanted-photographs/>

Digital Photography School

<http://digital-photography-school.com/8-tips-to-improve-your-photography-by-creating-instead-of-taking-photos/>

GraphicArt News

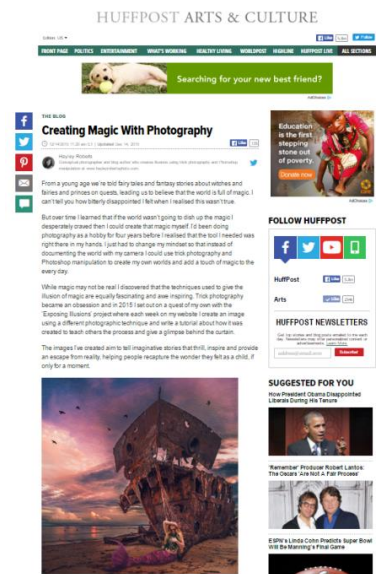
<http://www.graphicart-news.com/photography-that-breaks-the-rules-of-reality/#.V9OtYJh96Un>

The Huffington Post

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/hayleyroberts/twelve-things-no-one-tell\\_b\\_11538950.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/hayleyroberts/twelve-things-no-one-tell_b_11538950.html)  
[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/hayleyroberts/creating-magic-with-photo\\_b\\_8796028.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/hayleyroberts/creating-magic-with-photo_b_8796028.html)

STUDIOVOX

<https://studiovox.com/blog/archive/2016/01/27/conceptual-photographers-you-should-know>



# In Print

Book cover: Vrije Val, Anne Neijzen

Book cover: Anatomie des vagues Broché , Stéphane Sanchez

Book cover: 99 Giorni, K.A. Tucker

U on Sunday, Sunday Mail, 7 August 2016, p.26

Stubborn Magazine, Issue 3 – “Bright Florals”, June 2016

PhotoPlus Magazine UK, 24 May 2016

Our Narangba Magazine, May issue, (cover and feature article)

Australian Avant Garde Magazine, Volume 1, March 2016

North East Magazine, Issue 2 – “Magic”, July 2015, p.12-17



## Professional Development

- Recipient of a *Concept Development* Grant through RADF and Moreton Bay Regional Council, 2017
- Hayley is one of eleven artists selected to participate in Moreton Bay Regional Council's 2017 ['Cultivate the Arts: Intensive'](#) professional development program
- Member of [The Brisbane Collective](#) for 2017
- Featured artist in [Art Lovers Australia's online marketplace](#)

## Get in touch

### CONTACT:

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