



Above and right: Portrait of Cindy Smith: *Through a glass, darkly...*

ARTISTS (and others) OBSERVED

Photographic Portraits
of Carole Hampshire

*For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face:
now I know in part, but then shall I know even as also I am
known 1 Corinthians 13:12 The Apostle Paul. explains that we
do not now see clearly, but at the end of time, we will do so.*



Father and daughter, Peter and Thea, 2010

Carole Hampshire's recent portraits of Cindy Smith are the latest studies in a long career in photographic portraiture which began for Hampshire as a girl in the United Kingdom. Cindy Smith is an artist jeweller now in her late eighties who creates silver sculptural pieces depicting real as well as mythical creatures (previous pages).

'The first thing people ask me is when did I start being interested in the photographic image. Well, that's easy because I started putting together albums of my black and white images when I was nine years old. I had no

idea my obsession would last a lifetime! No videos, limited television and no gameboys or playstations so for me it was photography all the way! The first opportunity to unleash the depth of my obsession was when I began my undergraduate degree in Oxford. I was introduced to the dark room, to large format cameras and that was the real beginning.

'I began to take portraits seriously in the 1980s and much of my early work was street photography. Then I had the opportunity to do an extended social documentation

on women working in non-traditional jobs. I began my project on women working in trades in 1985—what a long time ago that seems now. The work was shown in Sydney in March 1987 and was this year shown again in Melbourne at Magnet Galleries.

'The only female-dominated trade then was hairdressing but I wanted to concentrate on the less female dominated trades, that is, all the rest!

'Excluding hairdressing there was a mere 2.5% of apprenticeships awarded to women in 1983/4 in NSW (other states had similar or even lower percentages). How was I going to find them? Help came from the organiser of the register for women in non-traditional jobs who

sent a letter out with my phone number asking anyone interested to contact me.

'I believe good portrait photography is an artform and over the years I have looked for a deeper connection with my subjects. I am always striving to capture that special moment, a glimpse into another unique soul.'

Carole Hampshire published *Artists Observed: Blue Mountains Artists Close Up* (UNSW Press) released in Australia and the UK and in 2010 she was selected for a solo exhibition as part of Head On Photographic Event. Her exhibition *Out of Time* was selected as Best Exhibition 2010.

And she saw the vastness of everything—portrait of Kate aged 18

