

JACQUI DEAN



Darter Bird, Australia

'Never ask your husband for permission'

(Jacqui Dean)

A stylized signature or logo, possibly representing the author or publisher, located in the bottom right corner of the page.

Along with classical music, another of Jacqui's great loves is gardening and watching the architecture of plants and how they grow and survive. I will never forget watching her green fingers work on my own patch of weeds some years back when it started to rain quite heavily. Jacqui simply donned a Driza-Bone and rain bonnet and carried on gardening.

Jacqui Dean's whole life has been one of survival. In 1980 her family of five was living in the picture postcard village of Farnham in Hertfordshire with its quaint 15th century thatched cottages and hearing the thwack of leather on willow on the village oval.

Jacqui was immersed in English village life and became active in the local choir, the WI, walks in the Bluebell Woods, horse riding, caring for her three children and preserving plums.

The family business was thriving. Husband Tim, his business partner and staff of twelve were retouching

and duplicating transparencies for the London advertising industry, from their premises in Soho. 'Life was good', said Jacqui.

But in an unrealistic case of 'the grass is always greener', Tim's business partner persuaded the Deans to give it all away and emigrate to Australia and start a new business over there.

So they put their furniture, chattels, photographs, family silver and jars of plums into storage and got on a plane for Sydney – trading their lovely surroundings in the English countryside, for temporary accommodation in the Sunset Boulevard Motel, a bed bug ridden establishment on Victoria Road, West Ryde.

'It's still there, and I am reminded of those early days every time I drive past. I wondered what the hell we had done! As the cab drove us from the airport, we passed row upon row of car lots and ghostly buildings

covered in grotty signage. It felt like we had landed on the back-lot of a B-grade Western. I felt very homesick.'

Jacqui searched for several months eventually settling on a 100 year old farm cottage in leafy Epping, Sydney. 'It was a little bit of England – mostly I fell in love with an even older oak tree in the backyard.'

Jacqui contacted the London Shipping Company storing their furniture, only to be told that everything had been totally destroyed by fire in an arson attack. She flew back to take a look. There was nothing left.

The only recognizable item was the charred



Photo Peter Adams

remains of a washing machine containing one of the children's riding helmets. Adding insult to injury, the family was grossly under insured. A few months later Tim's business partner declared Australia wasn't for him, and dumped the Deans, with the company debts, waved goodbye and returned to the UK.

'I had to get a job!' Always interested in photography, Jacqui had taken the occasional photograph for the PR studio where she was working as a Girl Friday. She decided 'I had to get it right, so I joined a three year TAFE Associated Diploma course in Ultimo as a mature age student.'

Jacqui graduated magna cum looney and the rest, as they say, is history.

Her photography, single mindedness and determination and her pursuit of creative excellence have taken Jacqui around the world several times, and into the lives of Australian photographers via the AIPP, where she was first President and later Chairman.

Jacqui's picture of the Darter Bird was taken while she was supposed to be photographing a MacMansion in Dora Creek- much to the chagrin of her husband, who was acting as her assistant and was impatiently standing by her tripod.

Agave (Agavaceae)





Celosia (*Amaranthaceae*)



Kangaroo Paw (*Anigozanthos*)

'We were on assignment, and the light wasn't quite right for the commissioned shot and my curiosity got the better of me, when I heard an unusual sound coming from a dead tree. There amongst the dead wood of this tree I found an adult Darter Bird feeding her five young chicks. I waited patiently for her to fly off and return with more fish from the nearby river. She walked to the end of a dead branch in the tree and opened her wings to dry them. One exposure is all it took.'

'Listen to your instincts and go where your heart tells you to venture, and never listen to your husband!' Sadly Tim was very ill with cancer at the time, and didn't live to see the image win \$20,000 in a competition.

Tim also didn't see her first major exhibition called Translucence, even though it was born indirectly from his illness and being in hospital. One of the specialists attending Tim was also a keen photographer. 'I talked to him about the project', said Jacqui, 'and he was very interested and arranged for me to work with the hospital radiographer.'

In a radio interview Gemma Piali put it this way:

'While many of us see only a flower's outward beauty and dismiss them as mere fancy, Jacqui has looked within to the lessons they might impart. In 'Translucence', Jacqui shows us another aspect of a flower's beauty to illuminate their interior structures.'

Says Jacqui: 'I have always been interested in the architecture and structure of plants and very influenced by Karl Blossfeldt.'

Gemma Piali: 'These stark black and white prints of Australian natives are a sight to behold. With so many ways to appreciate their beauty. 'Translucence' reveals flowers as having a different personality. One we have never seen before...'

'Photographing flowers is difficult! But I did learn a lot. There are 0 to 255 tones in a digital image, but what you see on the screen from an x-ray isn't interpreted in the same way. After a while I began to know whether a flower was going to work or not - not all flowers are successful. Some are too fine, some too dense.'

'The most successful images were heliconia, lotus pods, a rose and lisianthus. The lotus pods worked really well. Seeing inside the working structure of a plant is very exciting.'

Peter Adams

Jacqui Dean

M 041 2246255

deanphoto@optusnet.com.au

www.deanphotographics.com.au

Jacqui Dean's flower prints are in 2 sizes:

A2 and 1 metre square



Lotus Pods (*Nelumbo nucifera*)



Phalaenopsis Orchid
(*phalaenopsis amabilis*)



Heliconia (*Heliconiaceae*)



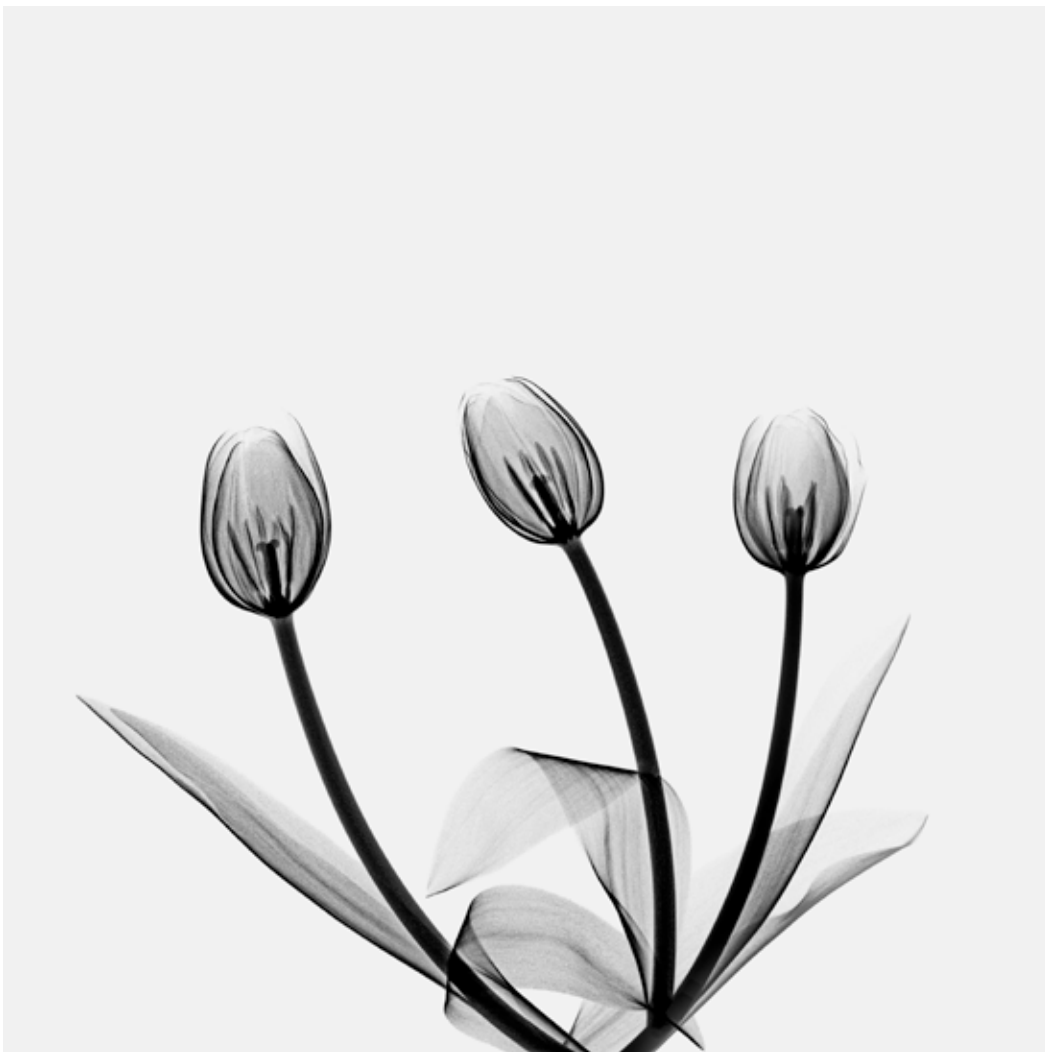
Lisianthus (*Eustoma*)



Rose (*Rosa*)



White Marlock (*Eucalyptus tetragona*)



Tulips (*Liliaceae*)