

# TRENT PARKE THE BLACK ROSE

ABC1 Tuesday 21 April 2015 @ 10pm

ABC Arts  
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*"Photography is an extension of every thought that I have. It's almost linked to my hand in a way that it becomes part of you. I don't think about photography as making something for art or making it for the walls of a show, it's never about that. It's always for me just about finding the answers to life. That's what I'm looking for."* – Trent Parke

Premiering on ABC1 Tuesday 21 April 2015 at 10pm, Catherine Hunter's documentary *Trent Parke: The Black Rose* explores the poignant autobiographical story of Australia's award-winning Magnum photographer Trent Parke. After seven intense years, his landmark exhibition *The Black Rose* is now on display at the Art Gallery of South Australia.



Trent Parke explains, "*The Black Rose started in 2007 as an attempt to excavate my own histories, reflecting on a night when at the age of twelve I witnessed my mother die of an asthma attack while my dad was at his squash night. As a result I blanked out those first 12 years of my life and much more. After sidestepping the issue for 27 years, a chance incident forced my hand and I began writing and taking*

*photographs as I sought to get those memories back. Autobiographical in nature, these letters and photographs narrate the story of my life past and present, but more importantly pose universal questions relating to our very existence. Why are we here, where are we going, and what happens next?"*

Considered one of the most innovative photographers of his generation, Trent Parke is the first Australian to become a full member of the renowned photographers' cooperative Magnum Photo Agency, co-founded by Henri Cartier-Bresson in 1947.

*Magnum is a community of thought, a shared human quality, a curiosity about what is going on in the world, a respect for what is going on and a desire to transcribe it visually."* – **Henri Cartier-Bresson**

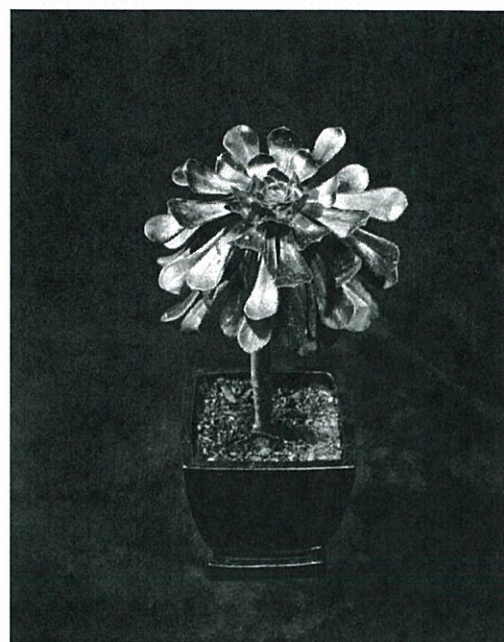
Whilst working as a press photojournalist during the early years of his career, Parke received many awards, including five Gold Lenses from the International Olympic Committee, and World Press Photo Awards in 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2005. In 2003 he was awarded the prestigious W. Eugene Smith Grant in Humanistic Photography for his series *Minutes to Midnight*.

The ABC documentary, *Trent Parke: The Black Rose*, features interviews with Parke's partner, photographer Narelle Autio, Art Gallery of South Australia director Nick Mitzevich and photography critic Geoff Dyer ('one of our greatest living critics, not of the arts but of life itself, and one of our most original writers,' *Kathryn Schulz in New York Magazine*).

## TRENT PARKE: THE BLACK ROSE

Director | Catherine Hunter

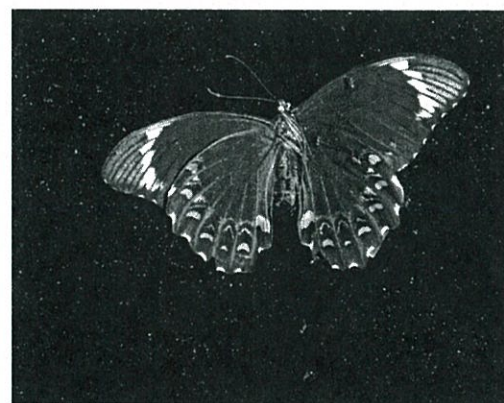
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*The Black Rose, Adelaide, 2007* ©Trent Parke



*The Obelisk, Newcastle, 2008* ©Trent Parke



*Butterfly, Adelaide, 2009* ©Trent Parke

*"With Trent Parke I thought, my God, here is a fully-fledged genius. The work was so striking and so original and it was only in retrospect really that I started seeing the kind of the antecedents to the work and seeing those antecedents didn't at all undermine my sense that I was looking at the work of a genius. It made it even more interesting,"* – Geoff Dyer.