

The Urban Lair

July 14 – July 26 2015

By Robert McRobbie

Artist Statement

The photographs in this exhibition are the result of many hours spent with owners and carers of a large number of animals around Sydney and Darwin. While these images depict animals, the real subjects are the people who care for them and my journey to find those people. Standing alongside every animal you see in these photos is the animal's carer, often anxious, but always proud and willing to share their fascination with whatever species they've chosen to dedicate a portion of their lives to.

The creatures themselves are photographed simply, on a plain background with basic lighting. Animals are often photographed in this way, most notably by Andrew Zuckerman, Tim Flach & Brad Wilson. While those photographers often work with animal wranglers and large teams to create their stunning animal portraits, my project has been undertaken solo, in the backyards, garages, living rooms and sheds of suburban Australia.

I have chosen to present these animals in stark surroundings and in B&W for two reasons – to accentuate the form of each animal, and to remove the colour which makes one animal immediately different to another. In doing so I have sought to emphasise what is common to these creatures – the experience of living in a human world. It comes with no judgment or criticism of the handling of these animals, all of which are treated with care and affection.

The Urban Lair project would not have been possible without the generosity and curiosity of many people who trusted me to enter their homes or properties, tolerating my fumbling with cameras and lights while they soothed or cajoled their animals to pose. The animals you see in this exhibition represent only a portion of the animals I photographed for this project, and I extend my sincere gratitude to all of the good people who allowed me to enter their lives to photograph the animals in their care.

Bio

The Urban Lair is Robert's first solo exhibition. Photography has been his personal outlet for many years, with animal and nature photography being a particular passion. Robert has won a number of photographic prizes and awards and his work has appeared in magazines and books.

Large (1340 x 1348), edition 4, **\$2,500 framed / \$2000 unframed**

Small (740 x 748), edition 6, **\$1,200 framed / \$900 unframed**

Pigment print on cotton rag art paper

Please enquire about which images are available in the larger size



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Samson & Delilah, FlyingFox twins



Walker, Siberian Husky



Japanese Quail



Penelope, English Donkey



Einstein, Tawny Frogmouth



Felix, Red Fox



Spinifex Hopping Mouse



Milton, Wombat



Blue-winged Kookaburra



Hercules, Gould's Wattled Bat



Bantam



Mew, Emu



Japanese Quail Chick



Raffa, Wallaby



Powderpuff, Galah



Keiko, Black Swan



Saltwater Crocodile



Thor, Grey-headed Flying Fox



Sinbad, Ringtail Possum



Siamese Kitten



Louie, Darwin Python



Pepsi, Isa Brown Hen



Bella, American Staffie

