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# • nellie castan gallery

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## PRESS RELEASE

### *polixeni papapetrou: elvis immortal*

7 september – 1 october 2006

'Elvis Immortal' is a project that has preoccupied **Polixeni Papapetrou** for over a decade. Fascinated by the many individuals who celebrate the anniversary of Elvis Presley's death each year through the manipulation of their appearance and identity, she photographs Elvis fans and impersonators on their annual pilgrimage to the Elvis Memorial in Melbourne General Cemetery, the only officially approved memorial outside Graceland in Memphis. They come dressed in their favourite style, be it early Elvis with bouffant style hair and leather jackets, or his Las Vegas period of studded jumpsuits and large tinted glasses. His devoted fans also pay homage the 'The King' in front of their home shrines and memorabilia collections.



Enshrined in pop mythology, Elvis has become immortalised in the mainstream consciousness due to his theatrical, sensual and flamboyant nature. Papapetrou's photographs document the devotion of his fans, who continue to celebrate his legacy.

"Looking into their immaculately graded toning, we leave the snobbish and judgemental world of mainstream opinion on Elvis. Papapetrou's photographs of the immortalisation of Elvis are radiant with the fervour of the people photographed, his earthly fans. Such radiance comes through because Papapetrou shares with the fans an appreciation of Presley's sensual flamboyance."

**Polixeni Papapetrou** graduated with a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Melbourne in 1984 and a Master of Arts (Media Arts) from RMIT University in 1997. She is currently completing a PhD in Fine Art at Monash University. She has had numerous solo exhibitions in Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide and Perth, and group exhibitions nationally and internationally. In 2005, she received an Australia Council grant to produce new work. This is Polixeni's first solo exhibition with Nellie Castan Gallery.

for images and further information please contact [olivia@nelliecastangallery.com](mailto:olivia@nelliecastangallery.com)

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level 1, 12 river street, south yarra, victoria 3141  
**opening: 6 – 8pm Thursday 7 September**  
exhibition ends: sunday 1 october  
hrs: tuesday to sunday 12–5pm t: 03 9804 7366

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