

# BINDI COLE

## SEVENTY TIMES SEVEN

15 SEPTEMBER - 8 OCTOBER 2011

GALLERY I & II

OPENING DRINKS  
THURSDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 6-8PM



**Bindi Cole's** latest exhibition, *Seventy Times Seven* presents a large cross section of work in a variety of media that challenges our broad cultural obsession with categorising identity. At the forefront of her concern is the classification of indigenous Australians according to the darkness or lightness of their skin.

*"The 1886 Victorian Aborigines Protection Act is an extraordinary example. This legislation categorised us, divided us and planted seeds of misconception that continue to grow and inform contemporary non-Indigenous ideas of what it means to be Really Aboriginal... What the government didn't count on was cultural resistance. What they didn't realise was that Aboriginality has never been about skin colour. Before colonization, Yorta Yorta people were the colour of Yorta Yorta people. Wathaurung people were the colour of Wathaurung people. We were never Black before white people sailed in. It was a colonial need to reaffirm whiteness that started this pre-occupation with skin colour. Kinship, culture, that's what makes us Really Aboriginal, as **Bindi Cole's** portraits illustrate." - Jirra Lulla Harvey*

**Bindi Cole's** work speaks out on the issue of classification. The *Not Really Aboriginal* series is a deeply personal account of what it means to be Aboriginal, which also resonates across the wider landscape of Australian culture and the *Post Us* series speaks broadly of the effects of the 'white Anglo-Celtic male viewpoint'. The *Unboxing Bindi* series is a calendar of sex-symbol photoportraits of Aboriginal sports stars transformed into curiously obsessive and beautiful collages through a final act of artistic aggression. The *Seventy Times Seven* film is about choosing to forgive. However unique their situation, the issues are universal. With every new body of work **Bindi** is able to further explore the politics of representation and reclaim her place in its history. *Seventy Times Seven* is **Bindi Cole's** second solo exhibition at **Nellie Castan Gallery**.

**Bindi Cole** is an award-winning artist. In 2009, she won the \$25,000 *Deadly Art Award* as part of the *Victorian Indigenous Art Awards* and she has also been a finalist in the *William and Winifred Bowness Photography Prize*, the *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards* (Telstra) and the *National Photographic Portrait Prize*. Her highly successful *Sistagirls* series was first shown in Melbourne in 2010 and has since travelled to Sydney, Adelaide, Brisbane, Perth and Darwin. It will be shown internationally in 2012 at the Kluge-Ruhe Museum, University of Virginia, USA. **Bindi Cole's** work is held in the collection of the Queensland Gallery of Modern Art; Art Gallery of Western Australia and in numerous private collections nationally.

Image: *Spring in the You Yangs*, 2008, pigment print on Hahnemuhle (cotton rag) paper, 96 x 136 cm

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