

S O F I T E L

MELBOURNE ON COLLINS

Bernie Kaye - *Rapture*

As part of our program of supporting emerging artists Sofitel Melbourne On Collins is delighted to be exhibiting for the first time the work of Melbourne based photographer Miss Bernie Kaye.

Bernie is a largely self-taught photographer who first came to pick up the camera more than five years ago with the desire to document the diverse array of street art around the city here in Melbourne and its suburbs.

Not long after this she has started to explore the rural life; the abandoned objects sitting in fields or under trees wrapped up with their unique memories of people now long gone and often forgotten. Her approach is based on the practice of *Urbex* or *Urbexing*, short for *Urban Exploration*, which is exploration of abandoned sites, structures and ruins in the man-made environment, often documented through photography, video or drone footage.

These bold images draw you into a time capsule of lost memories coated with layers of dust and wrapped up in cobwebs as she explains:

My very first 'explore' was as a child of some dilapidated tobacco kilns in country Victoria, I would have been around ten years old spending the day with my dad. This memory and excitement of exploring the forgotten sparked a curiosity and passion that has led me into a dusty, remote and sometimes risky world filled with derelict homes, forgotten farms, and paddocks with rusted cars, buses, trains and yes - even aeroplanes. Rapture

Rapture: Noun, a feeling of intense pleasure or joy

Bernie Kaye Instagram: @seetheworldasone

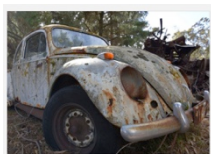
GLOBAL ART PROJECTS.

The exhibition program at Sofitel Melbourne On Collins is curated by Global Art Projects.

Website: www.gap.net.au

Instagram: [@globalartprojectsmelbourne](https://www.instagram.com/globalartprojectsmelbourne)

Bernie Kaye - LIST OF WORKS



Bugged

Hiding under the shade of the pine trees in South Australia, watching the world pass by, this cute little VW Beetle from the 60s is slowly rusting away dreaming of a life that once was. Patina and moss adding to its character and charm these little cars have always been a favorite of mine.

A1 size framed \$855.



Daisy Fields

Rural Victoria has many treasures, this being one of my favourite rusty finds and photos that I have taken. This early 1960s FB Holden Ute has never lost its hippy vibe. She's still hanging out with the daisies to pass the time and I'm almost certain if the radio worked you would hear the sweet tunes of the Supremes, Elvis or the Doors floating across the warm summer breeze.

A1 size framed \$855



Sunset Reflection

This beautiful little 61 Hillman Minx spends its days watching the sun come and go. Close to the South Australian border I was lucky to catch it and its reflection late one summer's evening. I could not think of a better way to watch the day end than capturing this magical scene.

A1 size framed \$855



Route 32

Not quite route 66 but I'm sure this old bus has plenty of stories to tell. Nestled out the back of an old house in rural Victoria, a strange and unusual find as the bus had been turned into a home for someone, complete with its own built in fire place.

A1 size framed \$855



Blue Skies and Sunshine

You know the old saying twos company, three's a crowd, lucky for these two there was not a third. My yellow friend is a FC Holden from the late 50s and his blue brother is a late 40's FX or FJ Holden (without that chrome smile it's hard to tell) the pair just hanging out together, no doubt reminiscing about the good old days.

A1 size framed \$855



Stacked

Perfect!, Well perfect is what came to mind when I came across these four hanging out together then I noticed the badge and had a little giggle to myself. Across the border into South Australia is where these beauties can be found. The Ford Prefect being the favoured one in this photo. I'm sure to some they are just scrap metal, to me they are art. Multiple shots taken at all angles, with this one being my favorite.

A1 size framed \$855



Rolling Hills

Tucked away and nestled at the base of beautiful rolling hills in Tasmania is this cute little house. With its cute picket fence and pastel colour's inside, I'm sure this would have once been a cozy home. Surrounded by sheep on my last visit this house has stood the test of time, not much had changed in the four years between visits.

A1 size framed \$895



Grand Sonata

On a cold and wet day in Melbourne I finally remembered to visit this home in Caulfield, my absolute delight and amazement that this beautiful old baby grand piano had been left behind. The only item of value, all other furniture long gone. Layers of dust filling the gaps between its keys, the only baby grand I have discovered so far. If only I could have taken it home.

A1 size framed \$895



Crafty

Who doesn't have a grandma or aunt who knows how to sew? Every time I see one of these old machines it sends my mind to a place of days past. These old machines also remind me of cold winter days where my mum would sit at a more modern machine creating an array of items for myself and my siblings.

I always love when I find something that triggers memories of my childhood.

A1 size framed \$895



Morning Coffee

It's hard to imagine that some of these places are so close to home, yet here we are. This stunning home, in an affluent part of Melbourne has been frequented by many visitors, which has seen its state deteriorate quicker than if it were a rural home. A common theme for local abandoned locations is graffiti and vandalism, hence why my and some of my fellow exploring friend's preference is to drive the distance for a few hundred kilometers to find the well preserved and untouched.

A1 size framed \$895



Tucker Time

I first photographed this old sheep station in 2017. Without a doubt, this is my favorite location even though there is no piano inside. Walking into this shearers quarters you're greeted with a beautiful old kitchen, pots left on the stove, dishes scattered across the sink. To the back of the kitchen is a bedroom with a single bed a chair and wardrobe. To the left of the kitchen, a beautiful dining room and a second bedroom, all left to rot and crumble. The iron roofing sheets scattered around the property, which have blown off over the years allowing nature to have its way inside.

I have returned every year since, documenting the slow but gradual progression of decay, witnessing the hive of wild bees that live in the corner of the kitchen, building their hive, which has grown on each return, the sweet smell of honey fills the air and honeycomb is visible in the wall in parts where the cement sheeting has fallen away.

Life continues in the living room, the carpet now a slow spread of moss and the dining table slowly starting to collapse from the strain caused by the elements. My most recent visit I was greeted by hundreds of wild and angry bees who have now taken full ownership.

A1 size framed \$895



Charlie's Place

Do you believe in ghosts ? Maybe you like horror stories.

This grand old Mansion could most certainly hold both. This old room I fondly call "The Green Room" is on the top floor of this stunning bluestone establishment. The building located on a busy country town's main road has a rich history and has been utilized for many things. Old and creaky stairs cases, peeling wallpaper, lush carpet filled with years of dust, blocked doorways an old cellar and multiple rooms to spend time in. Thankfully Charlie is warm and welcoming and only happy to give you a tour if you happen to find him. To myself and three of my friends this will always be known as "Charlie's Place" trust us when we say this one is not for the faint hearted.

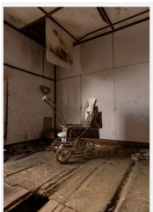
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Upright

The day I discovered this location it was 40 degrees outside. The last stop after a long day on the road. My exploring buddy not keen to get out of the car, reluctantly did so to cross the paddock and explore with me, I kept saying to him "there will be a piano inside, I just know it" Other than the welcoming cool air inside, which brought relief from the heat we discovered some beautiful old books and furniture and of course here she was this gorgeous upright piano, covered in dirt and grime, her keys discolored and stuck from years of dust, I'm pretty sure my smile was five feet wide.

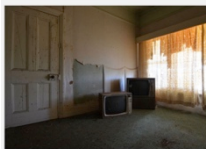
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Hush Little Baby

You could almost picture a baby in this pram and hear the squeak of the springs as you rock it backwards and forwards waiting for baby to close its eyes. The room lit by soft light coming in the widow creating shadows on the walls, a single bed in the corner where I imagine an exhausted mother catching a short nap whilst the baby slept in its pram. An item I had been hoping to find for some time, completing my collection of internal shots for this show.

A1 size framed \$895



Netflix or Stan?

Why have one T.V when you can have two? Options are endless, Stan, Netflix if there were three we would have Bing as well. Old TV's are another find I love, especially when they are completely intact. I'm always amazed at how now our tv's today are as thin as a notebook. I have always wondered if I could rescue one of these and turn it into a fish tank or terrarium.

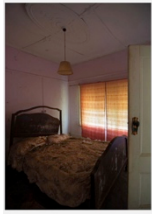
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Lost Souls

A home long forgotten. Calendars dating back to 1962. Wardrobes full of old musty clothes. Beautiful crockery in the cabinet of the old kitchen, where I'm sure many a discussion was had around the full-size kitchen table. Faded spots on the wall where photos once hung, have fallen and are still where they landed. Remote and hidden away this beautiful home speaks of loneliness and sorrow.

A1 sized framed \$895



Bedtime Stories

Pink walls and floral bedding, a family of foxes living under the floorboards and a fireplace to warm yourself from the harsh winters. My imagination ran wild in this home. In Particular with this room with its beautiful old bed left neatly made from decades ago.

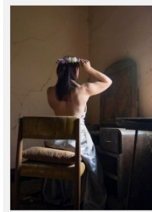
I often wonder what happened, why did the people not return? Where did they go?

More so when I find scenes such as this.

Sometimes it's common for some of us urbexer's to "stage" a room to help tell a story or bring more life to a photo, the down side to that is you can leave clean trails and fingerprints of where dust once was.

This room is one where no changes were required and any that could have been done would have disturbed the foxes under the floor boards, sometimes it's just best to leave things how you find them for nature's sake more than anything else.

A1 size framed \$895



Self Portrait - Fading Away

Have you ever found yourself in a relationship where you just don't know who you are anymore?

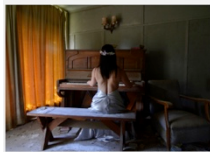
Not knowing how to be, what to say, how to walk away. Relationships of all kinds, friendships, marriage, and family can all have this impact.

Days can turn into months and months into years as the real you slowly slip away.

You find yourself questioning yourself, the life or lie you are living and the decisions you make.

Sometimes you catch a glimpse of what you thought was yourself looking into the mirror only to look closer to find the person you're looking for, the person you once were has faded away.

A3 size framed \$450



Self Portrait - Solo Performance

Always stubborn, always strong, always very independent.

Honest and raw with a burning desire to achieve and do well at things I set my mind too.

A good friend of mine once told me that. I'm like a caged animal that wants nothing more than to be free, no one has been more correct than this. For me marriage was a struggle. From day one I felt like I had been trapped, and as long and as hard as I tried I never felt like myself. I felt like a caged animal, restricted, and controlled. The day I decided to walk away and leave it all behind, was one of the most daunting things I have done, it was also one of the most rewarding. In saying that, my experiences have shaped me into who I am today. I have learnt to be comfortable in my own skin, to be who I want to be, to not be afraid of being alone and living my life the way I want to live it.

A3 size framed \$450



Self Portrait - Soul Free

The feeling of freedom. The ability to be me. The knowledge that I am and always have been a strong and independent woman. Creating these images leaves me feeling empowered and liberated. Being both the subject and photographer, creating an image in my mind and then living it in front of the camera teaching myself how to do this, learning what works and what doesn't. Having the knowledge that I have and can inspire and motivate others to feel the same. Knowing that the raw and real me is either accepted or not and not caring either way.

After all I'm not for everyone. This is what it feels like to be soul free.

A3 size framed \$450

A1 size images are #1 from an edition of 5. A3 size images are #1 of an edition of 1.

All images are printed on BauHaus Photo Matt, high white 230gsm paper. Printed on Canon ProGrap, Pro Series Printers Lucia Pro archival inks. Frames made from sustainable sourced timber moulding with shinkolyte acrylic glaze

Special thank you to the team at Fine art and Foto for all the work to help bring my images to life

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5% of sales will be donated to Durong Dingo Sanctuary