

Snapshots of a generation

Two photographers from different generations are showing their work at Burrinja this month. KIRSTEN LEIMINGER reports.

FERNY Creek artist Tiffany Bishop and award-winning Chicago photographer Maggie Diaz feature in the Burrinja and Jarmbi galleries.

Into The Light - A Retrospective by Maggie Diaz presents a series of haunting images spanning from Chicago's housing projects in the 1950s to Melbourne's battlers in the 1970s.

Mothers' War Cry by Tiffany Bishop, investigates women's war experiences using a digital montage of past and present images.

Bishop said her inspiration came about almost by accident.

"I found a second-hand book at a garage sale in Sassafra.

"One day I was looking through it and there were images of women, children and mothers. I felt a natural maternal tang.



War cry: Tiffany Bishop's exhibition is about women's experiences through war.

Picture: Wayne Hawkins

"I then discovered the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, predominantly [focused on] protecting women and children at times of conflict.

"The more interesting part for me was the desire to

empower them." Another installation in the show presents the artist as a domestic woman with children trying to fathom the realities of wartime.

"It talks about the importance of these issues.

"Women should be at the table making decisions," Bishop said.

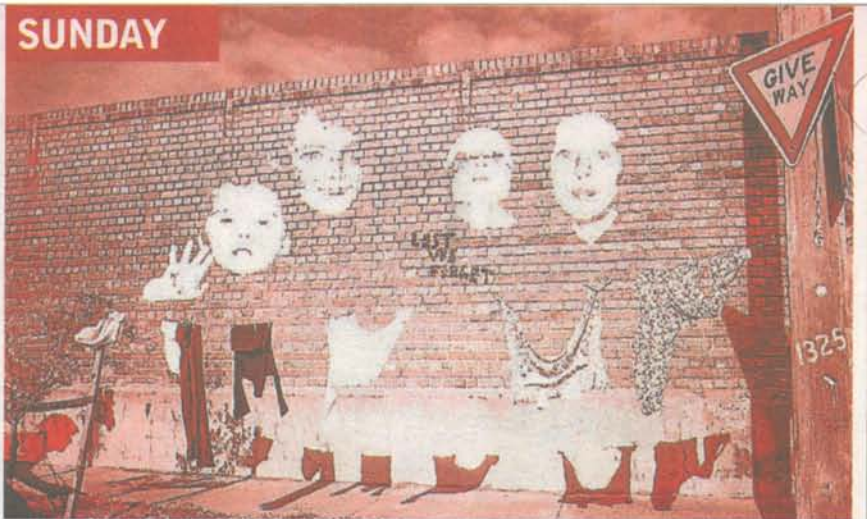
She has been invited to take her work to Spain.

Maggie Diaz settled in Melbourne in 1961 and soon established herself as a

leading photographer.

Into the Light is on until July 13 and *Mothers War Cry* until May 11. Burrinja is at 351 Glenfern Road, Upwey. Details: 97548723 or www.burrinja.org.au

SUNDAY



EXHIBITION

United Nations Resolution 1325 looked at the effects of war on women and children, and it is also the title of a new exhibition on the same subject at the Shrine Of Remembrance. Artist and photographer Tiffany Bishop has created digital montages that show the reality of women in times of war, while asking questions about the opportunities women have to participate in peacekeeping and conflict resolution.

WHEN: 10am to 5pm daily (until January 27), shrine.org.au

Friday, November 2, 2007 THE AGE

further afield



PHOTOS: Yering Station Art Gallery presents photographic artist Tiffany Bishop's *Mothers' War Cry - War and Peace, a woman's perspective*. Admission is free and commission from sales will be donated to LARCH, Leukaemia Auxiliary of the Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne. Yering Station is at 38 Melba Highway, Yarra Glen. Inquiries: Amanda Ruck on 9730 0100 or 0418 389 964.

TALK: The Dalai Lama's free public talk is at Princes Park Stadium, Carlton, on Saturday at 3pm.

ART: See Hannah Bertrum's dust installations at Birrarung, 195 Laughing Waters Rd, Eltham, on Saturday-Sunday, noon-4pm.

Crying for your attention

Zoe Lewis

FRESH from an exhibition at the Shrine of Remembrance, Ferny Creek photographer Tiffany Bishop has "re-jigged" her work now on show in Upwey.

Bishop said her work in *Mother's War Cry* explored the way women viewed and experienced war and peace in the 21st century.

She said it focused on the UN Security Council's Resolution 1325 that addressed the impact of war on women. Her images are all in red, which, Bishop said, made them "extremely dramatic".

"It encourages you to look before being repulsed," Bishop said.

"Men find the work as interesting as women do."

Bishop appropriated both her own images and images from World War II, some quite graphic.

She said she created her work to demonstrate war is bad and reflected women's opinions of war from both inside and outside war zones.

Bishop said it was important that

people knew she had a voice from her own domestic perspective, even though she had never experienced war first hand.

Her work has attracted interest from around the world, and she was recently invited to take it to the Gernika Peace Museum in Spain. "I feel like this body of work will define me," Bishop said.

She also did some work on a new exhibition by Maggie Diaz, entitled *Into the Light - a Retrospective*, that is also on at Burrinja.

She said some of Diaz's images were damaged from dust and storage, so she reproduced some on fine art paper, to go with originals, for the exhibition.

The process took over a year, but she said it was worth it.

"Maggie said I reproduced them in a style that she would have done herself," Bishop said.

■ The exhibitions are on at Burrinja, 351 Glenfern Rd, Upwey. Diaz's exhibition is on until July 12 and Bishop's exhibition is on until May 11.

Details: 9754 8723.



Tiffany Bishop and works from her exhibition at Burrinja Gallery called *Mother's War Cry*.

Pictures: STEVE TANNER N42FP102



Above and right: a retrospective by photographer Maggie Diaz.



NEWS



Shrine curator Jean McAuslan.

Picture: PAUL LOUGHNAN N29MP808

Focus on women in war

EXTENSIVE research of United Nations Resolution 1325 prompted Tiffany Bishop to make an important resolution of her own.

The Melbourne artist vowed to highlight the plight of women and children in war and in 2005 approached Shrine curator Jean McAuslan for help.

The result is *United Nations Resolution 1325: war and peace – a women's perspective*, the first such exhibition in Australia.

"I was very interested in (Bishop's) research into the UN Resolution 1325, which identified the victimisation of women in war, the vital role they play unofficially in post-conflict rebuilding, and the need to ensure women have their place in peace processes," Ms McAuslan said.

"It was decided at that early stage that this resolution would become part of the storyline for the exhibition."

Bishop used her home computer to transform historical and contemporary images into a sophisticated set of digital works.

Ms McAuslan said the Shrine was proud to present an exhibition on the important, and often neglected, subject of women and children in war.

The exhibition runs until January 27 at the Shrine on Birdwood Ave.

» Details: 9654 8415

Critical list

1. FERNY Creek photographer **Tiffany Bishop** (right) has "re-jigged" her work now on show in Upwey. Bishop said her work in *Mother's War Cry* explored the way women viewed and experienced war and peace in the 21st century. Her images are all in red, which, she said, made them "extremely dramatic".

"It encourages you to look before being repulsed," Bishop said. The exhibition is on at Burrinja, 351 Glenfern Rd, Upwey, until May 11. Details: 9754 8723.

2. The Basin is in for a special treat with a **chariot festival on Saturday, April 26.**

All are welcome to watch the Sri Vakrathunda Vinayagar Temple chariot and procession and then join a sumptuous Indian vegetarian lunch at the temple canteen. The parade starts at 10am at the temple, and will turn right on to Mountain Highway, right again into Forest Rd, then returning to the temple via Conyers St.



EXHIBITION

**Maggie
comes into
the light**



Mail

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Hills residents Gwen De Lacy (left) and Tiffany Bishop (right) with Melbourne photographer Maggie Diaz at the opening of Maggie Diaz - Into the Light, their retrospective exhibition at the City Museum.

Light on photographer

By Paul Pickering

IN THE realisation of an adopted hills community project, an internationally significant photographic exhibition opened at Melbourne's City Museum on Thursday, 8 March.

For The Patch's Gwen De Lacy and Ferny Creek's Tiffany Bishop, Maggie Diaz - Into the Light is the culmination of a self-confessed obsession with documenting the life and work of the renowned Melbourne photographer.

Ms De Lacy, who befriended the Chicago-born photographer some 20 years ago, was spurred into action by the revelation of Ms Diaz's 80th birthday.

"I couldn't believe it," Ms De Lacy said.

"This timeless figure in my life actually had an age and if I didn't watch out, her collection and her stories would disappear."

So Ms De Lacy and friend Ms Bishop began the protracted process of filing through boxes and drawers of images and reprinting them at Ms Bishop's Ferny Creek photographic studio.

The project has become a collaboration of hills artists and traders, with the website, catalogue and frames all designed locally.

Ms De Lacy admits that there is an aspect of symmetry to the way the project has reintroduced her to the hills art community.

After all, she credits a chance meeting with Ms Diaz with drawing her out of the hills as a teenager.

As a wide-eyed 16-year-old actress, Ms De Lacy was in awe of her soon-to-be mentor on that first meeting.

"She represented a whole other world to me," Ms De Lacy recalled.

"Meeting her was part of me launching myself into the world."

Ms Diaz arrived in Melbourne in 1961 having been given a one-way ticket as a divorce present by her Australian-born husband.

Through her work photographing actors and models, she soon became known in her adopted city for her genius for capturing character and situation by

using only available light.

In her documentation of 1950s Chicago through to 1990s Melbourne, Ms Diaz's work has always been preoccupied with the contrast between the glamorous commercial world and those outside society with whom she felt a connection.

Fittingly, the opening of Into the Light has also acted as a reconnection point for Ms Diaz and her family, who she had not seen since leaving Chicago.

After learning of the retrospective exhibition through Ms De Lacy, Ms Diaz's brother Ian, and niece Dawn, decided to fly out for the opening night.

They were among 200 guests in the JJ Clarke room of the Old Treasury building as the exhibition was opened by Eastern Region MP Johan Scheffer.

Into the Light is expected to tour nationally and even to Chicago.

As a result of the exhibition, the Australian Film Commission has funded the development of a documentary on Maggie's life and work.

The exhibition will run until 24 July