



Media Release

Embassy of Australia
Office of Public Affairs
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Life of leisure on display at Australian Embassy

Noted Australian photographer Anne Zahalka provides a unique snapshot of leisure in contemporary Australia in a new exhibition on display in the Gallery at the Embassy of Australia from 4 October through 23 November.

A collection of color photographs, "Leisureland", presents a coolly ironic view of Australian entertainment and tourist activities, from aqua aerobics to wood chopping to IMAX movie viewing. Zahalka also explores Australia's vastly different landscapes, both urban and rural, from cosmopolitan Sydney to tiny bush towns.

"With the help of perspective and photo-imaging techniques, Zahalka focuses on spectatorship, often presenting the viewer without the view," Embassy of Australia Cultural Affairs Director, Jane Scott, said.

"Zahalka also provides a spectator's glimpse of non-spectator activities, such as gambling. In a series of photographs of the Star City Casino in Sydney's famous Darling Harbour, for example, she recreates the overwhelming feeling of walking into a casino for the first time: the bombardment of lights and sounds and choices before the reality of gambling sets in."

Through "Leisureland", Zahalka has taken her perspective of Australian leisure all over the world. A selection of her images toured to Madrid and around Asia before arriving in Washington.

Zahalka is one of Australia's most recognised photographers, and for the past 20 years has consistently produced iconic images of her homeland. She was recently commissioned by Sydney International Airport to work on a series of quirky depictions of the city, to be displayed in the terminal. She lives with her husband and daughter in Sydney, where she runs the family bed-and-breakfast while pursuing her photo-media practice.

WHAT: "Leisureland", a collection of color photographs

WHEN: 3 October to 23 November 2007

WHERE: Gallery at the Embassy of Australia, 1601 Massachusetts Ave NW

* Media preview available by appointment