

# DANIEL KNEEBONE

*Contemporary Art Awards 2017 Finalist*

## Behind the Crimson Curtain

*By Di Erlichman*

Using a massive canvas, colour pixels, theatrical lighting and multiple imageries, award-winning Melbourne-born artist and photographer, Daniel Kneebone, applies his extensive professional experience in photography and graphic design to 'paint' a story that mesmerises the viewer.

A finalist in *Contemporary Art Awards 2017*, Daniel specialises in creating theatrical scenes, captured digitally, in which the female performer plays a central role in moments of an evolving drama. His submission: *Ethereal Beauty* (2016), showcasing the award-winning burlesque performer Sina King, is a photographic work that pays homage to the heritage of burlesque and Daniel's love of strong, confident and 'heroic' women. In *Ethereal Beauty*, Daniel conveys his belief that burlesque cannot be summed up in one image. Through combining strong colour, light, composition and fantasy to portray Sina on canvas through diverse angles and poses, *Ethereal Beauty* reveals the spirit of the subject as she expresses the beauty, courage and mystique that is burlesque.

Daniel's passion for his art – expressed through graphic design and photography, has been influenced by his work as a senior designer and photographer for premier auction houses such as Christie's, Sotheby's Australia and International, particularly in photographing Art Nouveau and Art Deco pieces for auction catalogues.

The allure of burlesque is strongly influenced by the performers' attitude and spirit. Daniel argues that society worships the archetypical heroic image of the footballer, but there is no equivalent female archetype that easily resonates within society.

For Daniel, the answer is burlesque. He argues that it is no

coincidence that eighty percent of the burlesque audience is female; drawn to the theatricality, the performance and the glamorous archetypes depicted in the themes and stories of each performer. Burlesque performers carefully construct their characters, using makeup, hair-styling, costume and their physical attributes to paint a story which the (female) viewer is not intimidated by, and with which they may identify. Daniel's series of burlesque women all portray Ethereal Beauty's promise of taking the audience on a journey of empowerment, using colour, lighting and tantalising imagery.



Daniel is a professional photographer in the art world, specialising in high-end artefact photography. For more than 30 years, Daniel's extensive technical background in design and photography, combined with his artistic passion and creative eye, has led him to experiment with the creation of illustrative photographic artworks, which is the

genre of *narrative art*. Daniel's current body of work was exhibited at the Ballarat International Foto Biennale in Ballarat, Victoria, in August 2015. He won The Fringe Revolution 2016 Calendar event. Daniel's *Behind the Crimson Curtain* exhibition was also exhibited at the Ballarat Cabaret Festival 2015. At the Australian Professional Photography Awards 2015 and 2016, Daniel received four Silver and two Silver Distinctions for the images shown in these exhibitions. Daniel Kneebone is represented by the Jackman Gallery.

On this page, *Ethereal Beauty* (2016), archival photographic print on fine art paper, 80 x 64cm.

*Image courtesy of the artist*

Daniel Kneebone's artwork can be viewed at:  
<http://www.contemporaryartawards/finalist-exhibition-2017.com>