

## ARTIST BIO - RORY O'CHEE

Rory O'Chee is a very exciting photographer who brings a unique and uncompromising perspective to landscape and still life photography. His work is unfiltered. He finds ways to let the landscape speak for itself, very much as Ansel Adams did, and the results are breathtaking.

Born with Down Syndrome in 1998, Rory was originally attracted to photography as a medium to express his creativity, since his fine motor skills are restricted by his Down Syndrome. Once he realised what could be achieved with the camera, Rory set about using photography to tell stories that other people do not see.

His photographic practice based on quintessential focus, free from distraction or superfluous elements in the composition.

This approach has been very successful, winning him a slew of awards, as well as critical acclaim for his work. He is also painstakingly patient in creating his work. His most recent exhibition, "The Untouched Canyon", was the culmination of two years work photographing a vast outback landscape that had never before been photographed by a professional photographer. This involved traversing dirt mustering tracks, and hiking across country to reach hidden valleys and spectacular peaks.

"The beauty of The Untouched Canyon is how vast the landscape is. I have tried to show this, and to take people there, through my photography," he says.

He had two prior exhibitions. His first was "Australian Summer" in 2015. In 2017 he exhibited "Open Soul of the Sea" with the support of Art From the Margins at the Brisbane Institute of Art.

Rory has been a finalist in the Brisbane Art Prize in 2017, a finalist in the Stanthorpe Art Prize in 2018, as well as a semi-finalist in the Moran Contemporary

Photographic Prize. He has previously won Visioning the Outdoors and the My World Photo Competition.

Rory holds an Advanced Diploma in Digital Imaging from Southbank TAFE, and is currently completing a Bachelor of Fine Art from Canberra University. No Australian

with Down Syndrome has previously been admitted to study an undergraduate degree.

Website: [www.spectacular.photography](http://www.spectacular.photography)

## **Prizes**

Finalist, Clayton Utz Art Prize 2020  
Finalist, Lethbridge 20,000 Art Prize 2020  
Finalist, Rotary Art Prize 2019  
Finalist, Stanthorpe Art Prize 2018  
Finalist, Rotary Art Prize 2019  
Invited artist, Downlands Art Prize 2019  
Invited artist, Dimensions Art Festival, Nudgee College 2019  
Semi-finalist, Moran Contemporary Photographic Prize 2018  
Finalist, Brisbane Art Prize, 2017  
Winner Student Photography and Aggregate Champion, RNA 2017  
Quarter-Finalist, Moran Contemporary Photographic Awards, 2015  
Winner, Student Photography, RNA, 2015  
Winner, Visioning the Outdoors, 2014  
Finalist, Australia, New Zealand and New Guinea Nature Photographer of the Year, 2014  
Winner, My World Photo Competition, 2014 (a worldwide competition for photographers with Down Syndrome)  
Special Mention, Visioning the Outdoors, 2015  
Highly Commended, Nudgee College Art Festival, 2014  
Highly Commended, Open Colour Photography, RNA, 2013

## **Exhibitions**

The Untouched Canyon - Aspire Gallery, Brisbane December 2018  
Open Soul of the Sea - Brisbane Institute of Art, Brisbane June 2017  
Australian Summer - ART101 Gallery, James Street, Brisbane, May 2015

## **Residency**

In 2017 he was a supported artist with Art From The Margins.

## **Commissioned work**

In 2014 Rory was commissioned to produce tourist photos for the Central Highlands Tourism Office in the Carnarvon Gorge and Moolyamber Gorge.

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