

## Patricia Casey Little Secrets

04 – 22 March 2014 **OPENING** Tue 4<sup>th</sup> 6-8pm



top left *The Illusionist*, 2013 38x48cm

bottom left *The Reclusive Impulse*, 2013 38x48cm

Photographic montage on cotton, embroidery detail. Editions of 5.

top right *Little Secrets II* (detail) 64x90cm

bottom right *A Visiting Stranger*, 2013 (detail) 38x48cm

*We all have an inner core that we don't reveal, even to those we are most intimate with. Little secrets that we keep to ourselves. Mental landscapes inaccessible to others. This work is very much about being alone with yourself. Finding peace in the quiet. A time to process life.* Patricia Casey, 2013

*... The place in us we retreat to, the place where we hide without being seen by others, the refuge we seek when we are afraid, and the dark sanctum that makes lies possible, but also daydreams and reveries and bad thoughts and intense internal dialogues.*<sup>1</sup> Extract from *The Shaking Woman* by Siri Hustvedt

**Secret - something that is kept or meant to be kept unknown or unseen by others. (dictionary meaning of)**

**Little Secrets** is a progression of Patricia Casey's interest in interior worlds, private spaces, memory and dreams. Her subjects are caught in a moment of private reverie, veiled by elements of the natural world. The mundane is manipulated and transformed into a surreal tableau in which the viewer is invited into a state of internal reflection.

**These photographic montages, printed on archival cotton fabric,** are all delicately hand embroidered by Casey – individual works taking anywhere between 10-40 hours. Using glittering thread and coloured cotton, the artist follows the contours of branches, leaf patterns and blossoms with tiny backstitch and French knots – mimicking the circulatory system and nerve pathways hidden within the human body. A flow of energy gently vibrates from the surface of each artwork, enticing the viewer to imagine a secret world beneath these dreamlike images.

**There are layers of complexity** in Casey's works. Beauty is contrasted with unease and we are uncertain as to whether the subjects gaze is inward or outward; are they the watched or the watching; hidden or revealed?

**Casey's work makes reference to the historical tradition of *memento mori*** in which a lock of human hair, embroidery, fabric, or ribbon are used to decorate the frame or surface area around a treasured photograph, thus transforming the image from a documentary tool into a vehicle of the present.

**ABOUT Patricia Casey, Photographer**

[www.patriciacasey.com.au](http://www.patriciacasey.com.au)

Patricia Casey was the Winner of the Head On Photographic Portrait Prize in 2006 and has been a finalist almost every year since. Since beginning her exhibiting career in 1999, Casey has been a multiple-prize finalist in numerous national competitions. Casey is internationally recognised having had countless solo-exhibitions locally and abroad. Her works are held in significant public and private collections.

Patricia's ongoing research deals with the themes of memory, dreams and imagination. While her work is primarily located within photography, Patricia combines her photography with mixed media, craft and installation techniques such as embroidery and crochet to create works that hover between worlds.

Casey currently has work in a group show at Stephanie Hoppen Gallery in London. She recently exhibited in the group Summer Show, at Black Eye Gallery in Darlinghurst.

Patricia Casey lives in Sydney and is available for comment and/or interviews. A full selection of high res images are available for printing.

**LINKS - Interviews with Patricia Casey about *Little Secrets* Aesthetica Blog, 2013**

<http://www.aestheticamagazine.com/blog/interview-with-artist-patricia-casey/>

**TextileArtist.org, 2013**

<http://www.textileartist.org/patricia-casey-interview-memory-imagination-and-dreams/>

**PhotoWorld, China – April edition. Interview with Alasdair Foster, 2013**

<http://culturaldevelopmentconsulting.com/2014/01/23/8510/>

**ASSOCIATED EVENTS WITH ART MONTH SYDNEY 01–23 MARCH 2014**  
Patricia Casey *Little Secrets* and NG Art Gallery are proud participants in Art Month Sydney 2014

**04 – 22 March FREE *Little Secrets*. Exhibition by Patricia Casey**

<http://www.artmonthsydney.com.au/exhibitions/little-secrets/>

**6 March 6-10pm FREE Art at Night: Chippendale & Redfern (associated Event) Artist in Gallery 6-8pm**

<http://www.artmonthsydney.com.au/experiences/art-at-night-chippendale--redfern/>

**15 March 2-5pm FREE Buy Art Tour: My First Time (associated Event)**

<http://www.artmonthsydney.com.au/collecting/buy-art-tour-my-first-time>



Close detail of stitch work from *The Keeper of Secrets*



Close detail of French knots & backstitch, from image *A Half Truth*

**BRIEF DETAILS – Free Event**

Exhibition *Little Secrets*

Artist Patricia Casey

Dates 04 – 22 March 2014

OPENING Tuesday 04 March 6-8pm

Gallery NG Art Gallery

Address Upstairs at 3 Little Queen Street, Chippendale NSW 2008

Hours Tue-Fri 10am- 10pm / Sat 9am – 10pm

Access Metered & non-metered street parking / disabled access

Phone 02 9318 2992

Website [www.ngart.com.au](http://www.ngart.com.au)

Artist Website [www.patriciacasey.com.au](http://www.patriciacasey.com.au)

Artist Contact 0402 284 253

**Little Secrets at NG Art Gallery is part of the Art Month Sydney 2014 Program – see details above**

**Pop-Up Publicity for Patricia Casey, Photography & NG Art Gallery. [www.popupp.com.au](http://www.popupp.com.au)**