



Art Gallery of South Australia presents the most iconic and confrontational images of the 60s in Diane Arbus: American Portraits

'Unstoppably curious and transfixed on the fringes of American post-war society, Diane Arbus' American Portraits is an unsettling and captivating portrayal of those considered to be 'outsiders' in the land of the free.' RUSSH

The Art Gallery of South Australia presents *Diane Arbus: American Portraits* from 14 July to 30 September 2018. This National Gallery of Australia touring exhibition explores one of America's most provocative photographers through thirty-six rare vintage prints captured during the last decade of her life. For its Adelaide season, this exhibition has been augmented by several Arbus photographs uncovered in a private South Australian collection.

The photographs of Diane Arbus (1923–71) are among the most widely recognised in the history of photography. Her images stand as powerful symbols of post-war America and, once seen, are rarely forgotten. Arbus was deeply curious about the society around her; her favourite thing was 'to go where I've never been'. Her subjects, often those living on the fringes of society, were always photographed in a candid, matter-of-fact way that seems for many viewers empowering and affirming, and for others exploitative and voyeuristic. Whatever the case, Arbus' photographs make us see the world differently.

This exhibition shows Arbus' work alongside photographs by her artistic predecessors, contemporaries, and those who are heirs to aspects of her world view – including Walker Evans, Lisette Model, Weegee, Garry Winogrand, Lee Friedlander, Mary Ellen Mark and Katy Grannan. Like Arbus, these American photographers sought to redefine the tradition of portraiture and have created memorable images that are both challenging and moving.

Diane Arbus: American Portraits runs from Saturday 14 July to Sunday 30 September at the Art Gallery of South Australia. Admission is free. Julie Robinson, Senior Curator, Prints, Drawings and photographs introduces the exhibition in a free Lunchtime Talk on Tuesday 31 July at 12.30pm in Gallery 23. For further information, visit artgallery.sa.gov.au.

A National Gallery of Australia Exhibition. This project has been assisted by the Australian Government's Visions of Australia program

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Images available for download from <https://files.artgallery.sa.gov.au/ftp/marketing/DianeArbus.zip>

image left: Diane Arbus, United States of America, 1923 – 1971, *Mae West on bed*, 1965, gelatin silver photograph; Purchased 1981, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra. image right: Diane Arbus, United States of America, 1923 – 1971, *Identical twins*, Roselle, N.J., 1966, 1966, gelatin silver photograph; Purchased 1980, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra.