

Marjorie Lord ARTIST STATEMENT

EXHIBITION TITLE: **Clayed**

Melancholia portrayed in works of art I find an alluring and poetic juxtaposition of dark and light. It is not necessarily about sadness per se, but finding those deep emotional connections within one's self. Then contemplating and reflecting on our past memories, our loneliness and past struggles.

An example of what I am trying to convey is with reference to the portrait of Georgie - 'Georgie Reminiscing'. We visited her brothers remote cattle station, and she commented on the hardships for women in the early pioneering days. As we looked over the graves, Georgie expressed with beautiful and deep rooted melancholy, saying to me, "So many mothers and little children died, ----- so many children died". So exquisite ... so loving ... such mood ... so melancholy ... it truly was a beautiful moment.

The potter's porcelain clay upon drying on the sitter's skin strips away the identity of the person beneath and adds a new subliminal layer or identity of a most stark, grunge, timeless statuette like appearance. The alluring gazes of the sitters resonate a moment in time, a glance ... a glare that is captured in portrait infinitely.

Each of my sitters has willingly participated in the process of looking deep inside them to extract out these feelings of adversity. Then I asked them to hold onto these thoughts in prolonged moments of melodramatic poses for the camera. These exaggerated expressions and the visual starkness of the clay has allowed me to create photographic portrait art that is vexatiously encouraging the viewers, like an uninvited guest, to intrude into the private space of the 'Clayed'

Melancholia is the Nightingale that sings its haunting and poetic song to me. The tune resonates deeply within my artistic being. Its mesmerising harmony lures me like the Pied Piper, and I follow along excitedly in the anticipation of finding more amazing spaces and ideas for my artistic expression. *Keep singing your song for I will follow you.*

Marjorie Lord 03/07/2015