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Last updated:
Thursday 22-5-2008

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Hionis photographs the city

Con Hionis was born and bred with a passion for photography running through his veins. At a young age, escaping to his father's photographic studio on weekends and school holidays provided for more than just hours of entertainment, it was a fix.



Federation Bells.

The aesthetic transformation of Melbourne over the past ten years has been a fundamental theme of Hionis's work. He has developed a real passion for documenting the visual revolution in the inner city. He is intrigued by the spaces where older architecture comes into contact with new, sharp, cutting-edge symmetrical design. Hionis draws on the use of the eclectic colours and materials in his subjects and incorporates them with the city's night lights to emphasize his urban inspiration.

Melbourne at twilight is one of Hionis's favourite time to work, "You don't have much time... linger and the sun is gone, the lighting flattens, the moment missed." Not knowing exactly what has been captured in a shot until it appears on the screen is the quality in photography he finds most exhilarating.

Panoramas are Hionis' true passion. His devotion to this technique began after Con completed a panorama of his mother's village in Ithaca, Greece, for his first montage in 2000. Upon returning to Greece in 2005, Hionis shot 11 more panoramas and stitched them together. His infamous Federation Bells piece came to life due to this revealing experience. Hionis ventured to Birrarung Marr one evening with the intention of shooting across the park and river. As he stood among the Bells evaluating the environment, he was overwhelmingly inspired to shoot a panorama.

Con Hionis' work is currently on display as part of the Melbourne-SCAPES exhibition at the Obscura Gallery of Fine Art Photography, East St Kilda, which opened yesterday.

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