

# **SHADOWING PORTRAITS**

**CHERINE FAHD**

## ANOTHER BODY

Cherine Fahd's **Shadowing Portraits (2014–2016)** is a series of twenty portraits depicting artists Anne Ferran, Julie Rrap, Eugenia Raskopoulos, William Yang, Darren Sylvester, Patrick Pound, Jacqui Stockdale, Marilyn Fairskye and Anne Zahalka amongst many others. The key to choosing these subjects was their in-depth knowledge of photographic practice. Their photographic knowledge, combined with putting them in front of the camera and not behind it, constitutes one of the key aspects of the portraits.

Another key feature of the series is that whilst they appear as portraits they also combine as self-portraits of the artist. At first glance the images seem simple; a stark white studio scene presents a person standing fixed, posed and statuesque on a plinth. On closer inspection their body is complicated by other details brought about from another body emerging from behind them. In this series, Fahd is once again hidden, appearing only as slivers from around the edges of her artist friends. In each image she mirrors the subject's body and pose from behind like a shadow. Standing behind each subject and mimicking their physical stance meant she could metaphorically assume their face and body for the frozen second it took to make the portrait.

One aim for making these portraits was to create a *photographic encounter* and to challenge herself to work with photographing other people again. Many years of making self-portraits boosted the desire for exchange and dialogue with subjects other than herself. In **Shadowing Portraits** Fahd asked the subjects to represent themselves – to arrange themselves, to intervene and pose as they wished. She wanted to relinquish some of her authority. She has, for the first time since 1999 (*operation nose nose operation*), photographed people who are aware of her camera. Photographing other people in this manner, as opposed to covertly as she had done in *The Chosen 2003/04*, activates a number of photographic nuances related to self-presentation.

Making this work she was able to satisfy her photographic penchant to observe and photograph others; their body, face, gesture, expression, fear, uncertainty, assuredness, their games, their attempts to pose and how they appear at a particular point in time, on a certain day, during a precise experience called posing for a portrait. Fundamentally, **Shadowing Portraits** interrogates the act of posing the self for a portrait. It highlights notions such as awareness, awkwardness, unease and doubt. But in addition, Fahd was able to witness in someone else what she wrestles with herself in front of the camera: discomfort. She was also able to satisfy the criteria of gaining enthusiastic participation from her subjects by embarking on a collaborative process through discussion, knowledge and the acknowledgement of how awkward yet thrilling it can still be to be photographed by another.



WITH ANNE FERRAN



WITH MERILYN FAIRSKYE



WITH DANIEL MUDIE CUNNINGHAM



WITH DANIEL PALMER



WITH SUZANNE BULJAN



WITH ELEANOR IVORY WEBER



WITH ANNE ZAHALKA



WITH KYLIE BANYARD



WITH SALOTE TAWALE



WITH EUGENIA RASKOPOULOS



WITH MEGAN HANSON



WITH ISOBEL PARKER PHILIP



WITH IZABELA PLUTA



WITH WILLIAM YANG



WITH JULIE RRAP



WITH SIRI HAYES



WITH CLARE RAE



WITH JACQUI STOCKDALE



WITH PATRICK POUND



WITH DARREN SYLVESTER

**Shadowing Portraits 2014-2016**

60 x 45cm

c-type

- Shadowing Portraits, with Anne Ferran
- Shadowing Portraits, with Merilyn Fairskye
- Shadowing Portraits, with Daniel Mudie Cunningham
- Shadowing Portraits, with Daniel Palmer
- Shadowing Portraits, with Suzanne Buljan
- Shadowing Portraits, with Eleanor Ivory Weber
- Shadowing Portraits, with Anne Zahalka
- Shadowing Portraits, with Kylie Banyard
- Shadowing Portraits, with Salote Tawale
- Shadowing Portraits, with Eugenia Raskopoulos
- Shadowing Portraits, with Megan Hanson
- Shadowing Portraits, with Isobel Parker Philip
- Shadowing Portraits, with Izabela Pluta
- Shadowing Portraits, with William Yang
- Shadowing Portraits, with Julie Rrap
- Shadowing Portraits, with Siri Hayes
- Shadowing Portraits, with Clare Rae
- Shadowing Portraits, with Jacqui Stockdale
- Shadowing Portraits, with Patrick Pound
- Shadowing Portraits, with Darren Sylvester

[www.cherinefahd.com](http://www.cherinefahd.com)

# THIS IS NO FANTASY

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