Exhibition Catalogue

Through the Looking Glass, Dimly

Andrew Follows &
Rosita McKenzie

5-18 August 2012
The Old Ambulance Depot
Edinburgh

CONTEMPORARY
ART
EXCHANGE

About *Through the Looking Glass, Dimly*
by Curator Kate Martin

This exhibition is part of a wider international collaboration project between blind photographers Andrew Follows (Melbourne) and Rosita McKenzie (Edinburgh), consisting of Follows' first international residency and a programme of events including artist-led photography workshops and presentations, all conceived especially for the 2012 Edinburgh Art Festival.

The exhibition showcases recent and new photographs much of which have never been seen before in Scotland. Bringing two very different approaches to photography, Follows and McKenzie are drawn together by their experiences of visual impairment, their capturing of night-scapes and the effects of fire on the natural environment.

Follows and McKenzie present an array of intriguing and fascinating images of the everyday from opposing hemispheres. Together, they question the notion of sight, perception and knowing and challenge the presumed role vision plays within creating contemporary art.

About the Artists

For **Rosita McKenzie**, photography provides 'a voice' that challenges traditional photographic practices and dispels the myth that totally blind people like herself cannot possess vision and artistic imagination. Central to her practice is her relationship with her subjects.

Using photography as an agent for communication, understanding and remembering, it preserves live moments as vivid and powerful memories.

McKenzie is also a Disability Consultant and Equality Educator and sees little distinction between this and her artistic practice: ensuring the accessibility of art forms to all audiences governs all she does.

Andrew Follows has Retinitis Pigmentosa - a degenerative eye condition leaving him blind in one eye and partially sighted in the other. For him, photography is a tool that enables him to see glimpses of his fading visual world.

However, it is not just a way to experience sight as fully sighted people do; it is about mastering the physical and mental challenges of taking a photograph. Follows has a background in Community Development and is motivated by a concern for the natural world and the people who live in it, and photography's ability to communicate and engage with people.

Andrew Follows, *Reclaimed* Series, 2009-2012

Rosita McKenzie, Burnt Hiills and Blue Sky, 2011

Andrew Follows, *Reclaimed* Series, 2009-2012

Rosita McKenzie, *Burnt Hillside*, 2011

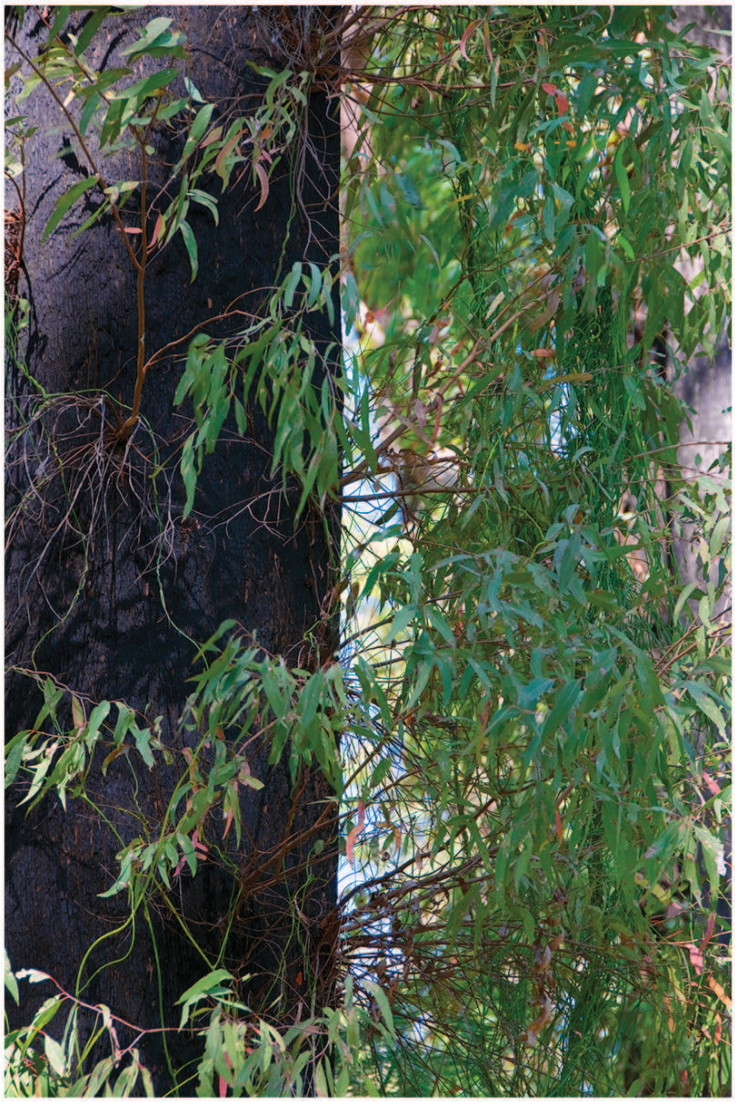
Andrew Follows, *Reclaimed Series*, 2009-11

Rosita McKenzie, *Burnt Trees*, 2011

Andrew Follows, *Reclaimed Series*, 2009-11

Rosita McKenzie, *Hut and Hill*, 2011

Andrew Follows,
Reclaimed Series,
2009-11



Rosita McKenzie,
Rocks and Scorched Vegetation, 2011

Andrew Follows,
Reclaimed Series,
2009-11

Rosita McKenzie,
Scorched Rocks and Vegetation (Close Up), 2011

Andrew Follows,
Reclaimed Series,
2009-11

Rosita McKenzie,
Scorched Rock Face, 2011

Andrew Follows, *Reclaimed Series*, 2009-11

Rosita McKenzie, *Two Black Posts*, 2011

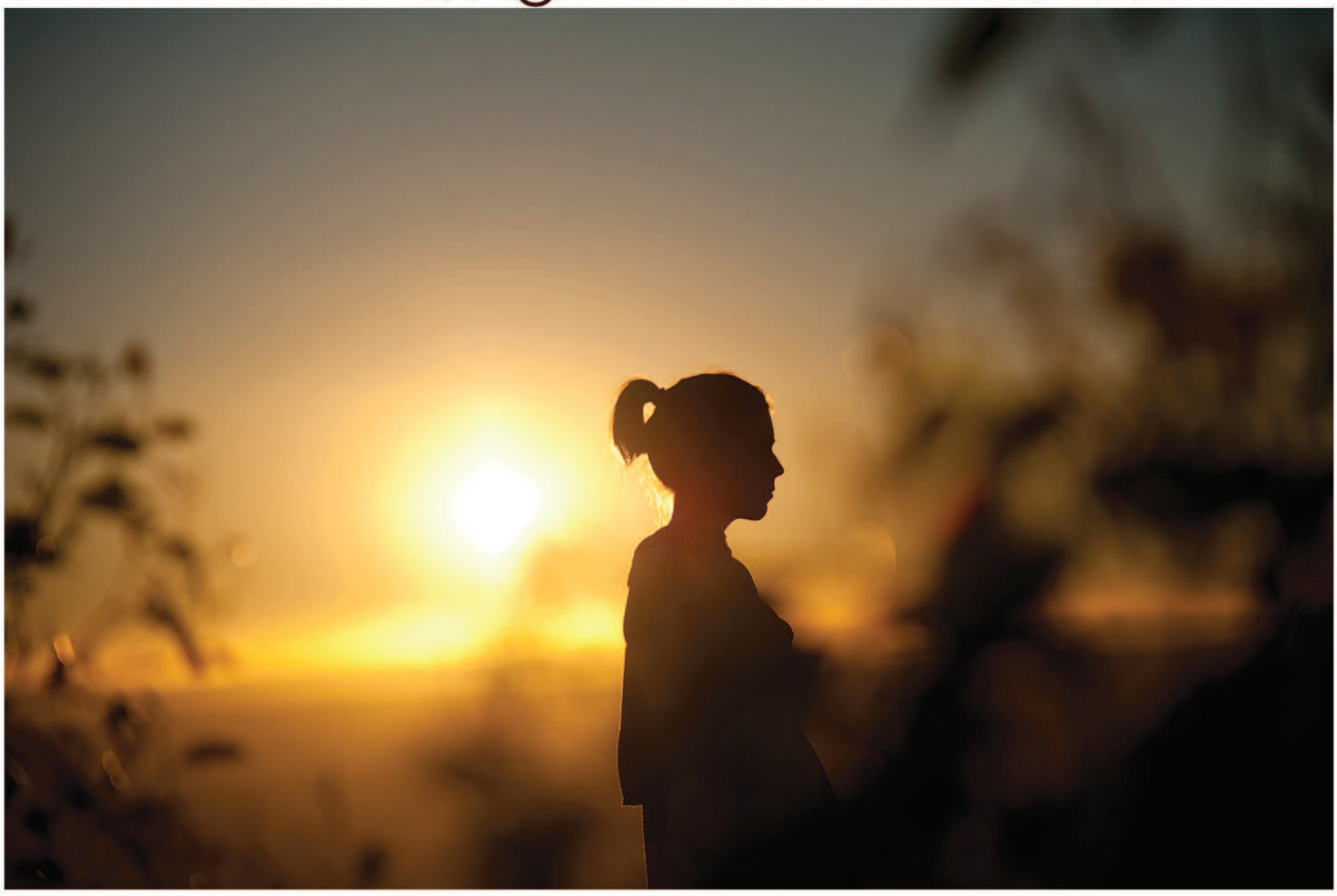
Andrew Follows, *Reclaimed Series*, 2009-11

Rosita McKenzie, *After the Fire*, 2011

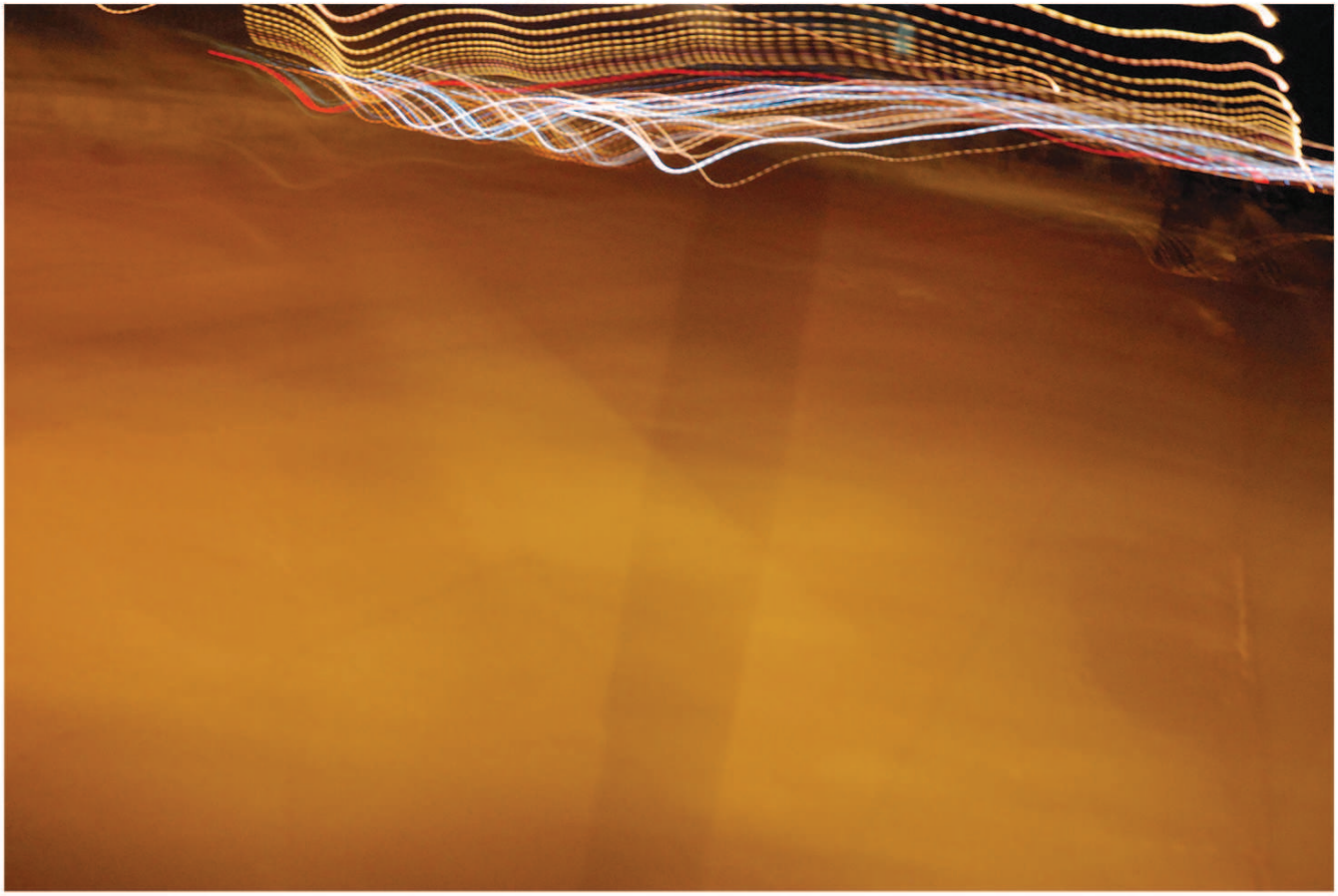
Andrew Follows, *Night's Ocean Series*, 2009-11

Rosita McKenzie, *Either Dusk or Dawn*, 2012

Andrew Follows, *Night's Ocean Series*, 2009-11



Rosita McKenzie, *Lights*, 2012



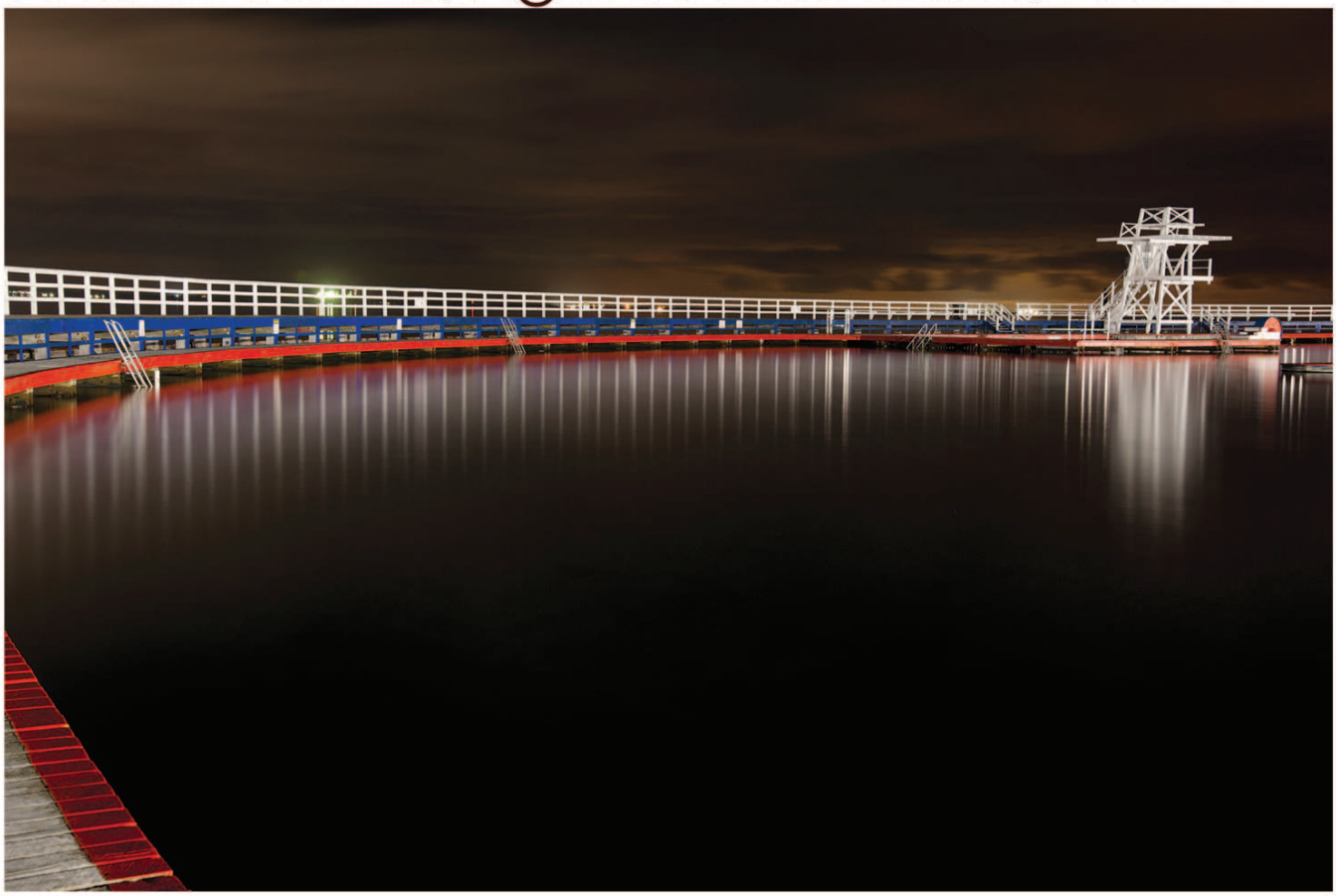
Andrew Follows, *Night's Ocean Series*, 2009-11

Rosita McKenzie, *Moon, Bottom Right*, 2012

Andrew Follows, *Night's Ocean Series*, 2009-11

Rosita McKenzie, *Groyn and Moon*, 2012

Andrew Follows, *Night's Ocean Series*, 2009-11



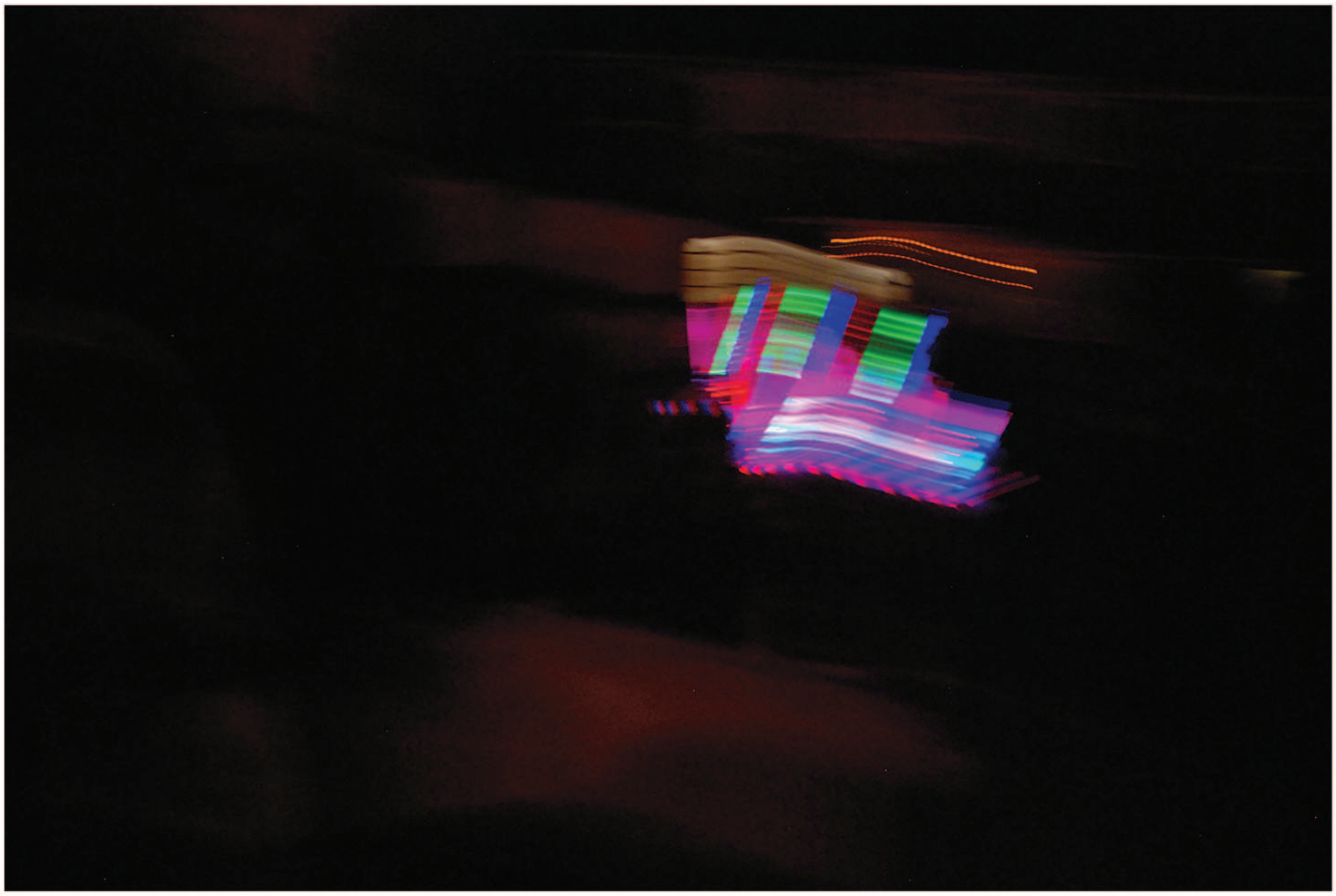
Rosita McKenzie, *Fishbone*, 2012

Andrew Follows, *Night's Ocean Series*, 2009-11

Rosita McKenzie, *School of Sparkling Seahorses*, 2012

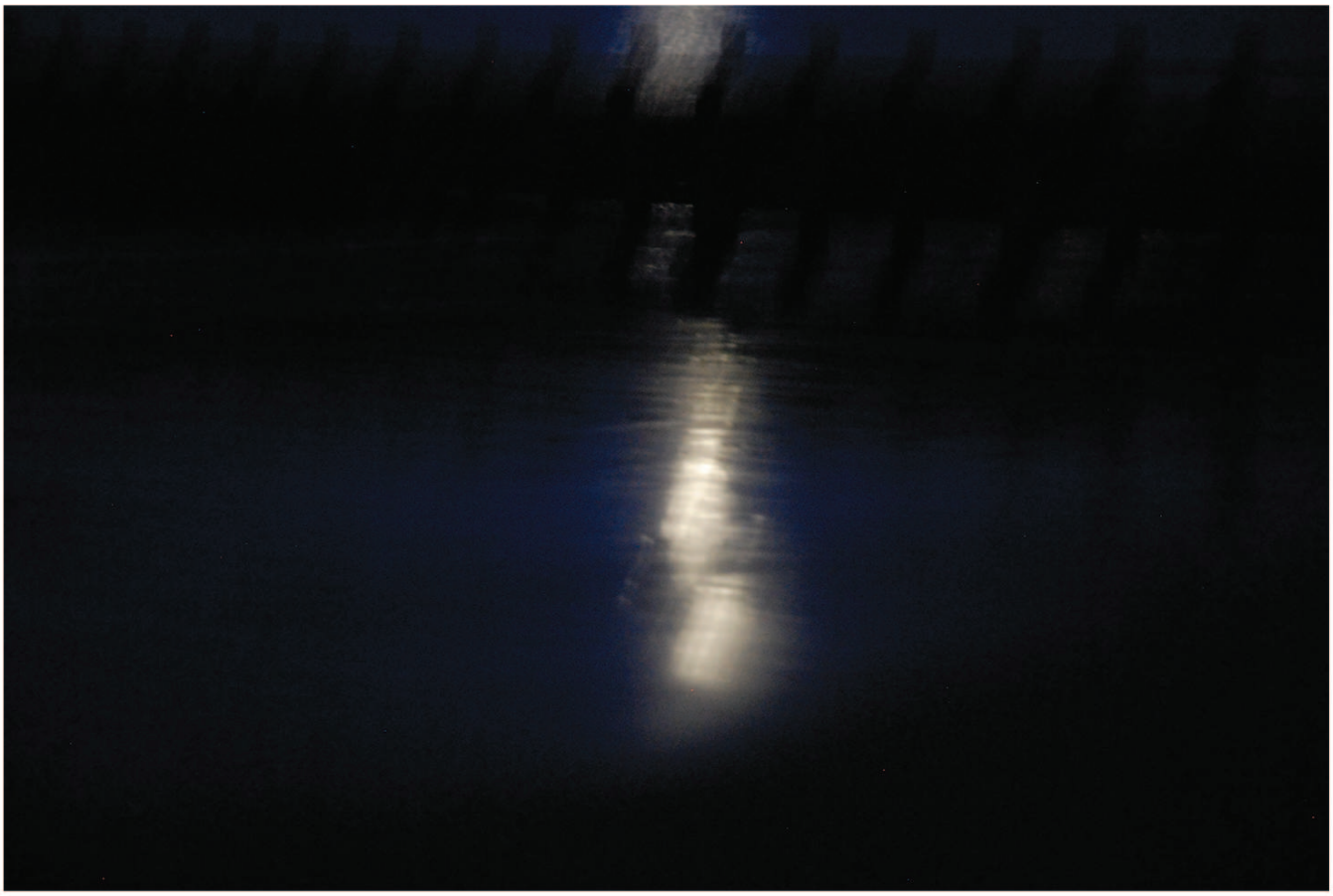
Andrew Follows, *Night's Ocean Series*, 2009-11

Rosita McKenzie, *Neon Flag*, 2012



Andrew Follows, *Night's Ocean Series*, 2009-11

Rosita McKenzie, *Moon, White Blur*, 2012



Andrew Follows, *Reclaimed Series*, 2009-11

Rosita McKenzie, *Orange Tentacle*, 2012

Rosita McKenzie, *Tree of Light*, 2012

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...and Blinkie Photography, Rosita McKenzie, Julie Clyde, Edinburgh Art Festival, Margaret Fisk OAM, Betty Amsden OAM, The Ian Potter Cultural Trust, Guide Dogs Victoria Yarra Ladies Auxiliary, Besen Foundation, Australian Communities Foundation, Jim McKenzie, Fay Williams, Mike Halcrow, Alan and Joanne Boyd, Alan Davidson and Rule Anderson, Dr. Marcus Bunyan, Atlanti Film Productions, Guide Dogs Victoria, Guide Dogs Edinburgh, Federation Square Melbourne, Narbethong CFA, Street Wise Opera London, Allegro Graphics, Jet Pets International, Eltham Stock Feed, Pelican Products Australia, RMIT University Melbourne, Boot Hill Gallery/Printing/Framing, Auspicious Arts, Photography Made Easy Melbourne, Nikon Australia, David Brehme, Morwenna Kearsley, Caroline Douglas, Roderick Price, Hanna Dickmann, Trudie Kampe, The Portobello Bowling Club, Janine Matheson.