



Sex Worker's Private Lives in Focus in New Exhibition

Brisbane Powerhouse and Gemma Rose Turnbull present
Red Light Dark Room: Sex, Lives & Stereotypes

The private lives of Melbourne's street sex workers will be revealed in award-winning Brisbane photojournalist Gemma Rose Turnbull's exhibition *Red Light Dark Room: Sex, Lives and Stereotypes* on at Brisbane Powerhouse from **Thursday 1 to Sunday 18 December 2011**.

According to Turnbull the exhibition gives a voice to marginalized women to tell their stories and to show the real women in the sex industry.

"Sex work is a hazardous and stressful occupation, yet it is largely ignored by society because it is confronting and considered one of the last societal taboos," Gemma said.

"In addition to the hardship of their situation, these women often encounter abuse and cruelty at the hands of strangers and are treated like sub-standard citizens by the general public.

"This project gives a voice to these women. It paints a rare picture of real women, with real hearts, who care about family, have friendships, lovers, skills and dreams. The stories cover the hardship, but also the episodes in their lives which bring them joy and fulfilment.

"More than 250 rolls of film were shot by nine women to produce this hardcover book, and many more were involved in other ways. Their contributions are priceless and I hope this project goes some way towards showing the human side of these women."

During 2010, Gemma-Rose has used an Australia Council for the Arts Connections Residency grant to photograph and interview street sex workers, while teaching these women the skill of photography.

The exhibition is also accompanied by a book, and all sales proceeds go to St Kilda Gatehouse, a not-for-profit organisation, which works to restore dignity and hope for those involved in street sex work. It provides a safe community space, emergency aid and strong advocacy, where women can find the support they need to build a life off the streets and beyond drug addiction.

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| Date | Thu 1 December – Sun 18 December |
| Time | Mon 9am-5pm, Tues-Sun 9am-9pm |
| Venue | Brisbane Powerhouse |
| Tickets | FREE |
| Website | www.redlightdarkroom.com and www.brisbanepowerhouse.org |

Brisbane Powerhouse is Brisbane City Council's leading arts performance venue helping to deliver a vibrant and creative city.



**For more information, images and interviews please contact
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