



GEORGE GITTOES

Born 1949, Sydney

Lives and works in Sydney & Afghanistan

- 1968 Enrolled Fine Arts, Sydney University
- 1968-69 Worked in New York City with African American artist, Joe Delaney
- 1970 Founded Yellow House in Sydney with Martin Sharp
- 1972 Set up studio in Bundeena, NSW
- 1974 Won Fishers Ghost Art Prize. Solo show of paintings and photos at Coventry Gallery Sydney, plus ACP, Solander Gallery ACT and Brummels Gallery Melbourne
- 1977 'Rainbow Way', abstract 16mm short film, shown in Sydney and Melbourne Film Festivals and in theatrical release. Solo show of photos and holograms at Macquarie Gallery Sydney
- 1978 Created sets and back projections for 'Poppy', Sydney Dance Company
- 1979 Formed TREE group of musicians, performers and community to make large scale outdoor theatre (Rosella Sisters and Rainbow Eel; music by Martin Wesley Smith)
- 1981 'Refined Fire', 16mm short film
- 1984-85 Made four 16mm one hour documentaries for television: 'Tracks of the Rainbow', 'Warriors and Lawmen', 'Unbroken Spirit', and 'Frontier Women', all in outback Northern Territory, Australia
- 1986 'Bullets of the Poets', 16mm film, made in Nicaragua, screened by ABC and shown at the Sydney and Melbourne Film Festivals. Birth of son, Harley Gittoes
- 1987 'Visions in the Making', 16mm, ABC documentary. Birth of daughter, Naomi Gittoes. Death of father, Claude Gittoes
- 1990 Yellow House Retrospective, Art Gallery of NSW
- 1990-93 Residencies in Wollongong, Newcastle, Whyalla, Broken Hill, followed by a national regional tour of Heavy Industry.
- 1992 'Ancient Prayer' awarded Blake Prize for religious art

- 1993 Worked as artist and photo journalist in Somalia and Cambodia. Winner of Wynne Prize for landscape, Art Gallery of NSW
- 1994 Worked in Western Sahara and Middle East, then, in the time leading up to the first democratic election, in South Africa
- 1995 Rwanda. Experienced Kibeho Massacre, producing photos and drawings. Won Blake Prize with 'Preacher' painting from Rwanda. Travelled to Mozambique. National touring exhibition, 'Realism of Peace', Australia
- 1996 Bosnia
- 1997 Awarded Member of the Order of Australia. Showed Kibeho works at Documenta X, and worked in Northern Ireland
- 1998 Worked in Bougainville during final stage of conflict. Monograph, 'George Gittoes', by Gavin Fry, published by Craftsman House
- 1998-99 China and Tibet. Subject of Featherstone documentary, 'Witness to War', ABC. Trip to East Timor
- 2000-01 Worked on 'Minefields', in Cambodia, Middle East, Afghanistan and Tribal Belt of Pakistan. Exhibited in Geneva (UN Building) and in Moscow. 'Across the Lines' exhibition in Yemen. 'Lives in the Balance' retrospective in South Africa, in Durban, Johannesburg and Pretoria. Worked in Congo and returned to both Rwanda and Pakistan
- 2003-04 'Soundtrack to War', Iraq, feature documentary, VH1 and ABC. Various scenes included in Michael Moore's 'Fahrenheit 9/11'. 'No Exit' exhibition (retrospective) in Aveiro, Portugal
- 2005-06 'Rampage', feature documentary, shot in Miami, shown at Berlin Film Festival
- 2007 Began shooting 'Miscreants of Taliwood' in Tribal Belt of Pakistan
- 2008 Awarded Honorary Doctorate of Letters, University of NSW
- 2009 Feature documentary, 'Miscreants of Taliwood', completed, Pakistan, screened by SBS, IDFA and at Teluride. Pashtun language features: 'Servants' and 'Fire'
- 2010 Pashto drama features: 'Moonlight' and 'Starless Night' shot in the Tribal Belt of Pakistan
- 2011 'Witness to War' retrospective exhibition curated by James Harithas at Station Museum of Contemporary Art, Houston, USA. Death of mother, Joyce Gittoes
- 2011-12 Produced three Pashtun dramas in Jalalabad, Afghanistan: 'Love City', 'Talk Show' and 'The Tailor's Story'; and also a children's feature: 'Simourgh'. Shot documentary, 'Love City Jalalabad'. Established multi-media Yellow House in Jalalabad and the travelling Cinema Circus, Afghanistan
- 2013 Completed feature documentary, 'Love City Jalalabad', produced by Piraya Films, Stavanger, Norway. Premier at 2013 Sydney Film Festival
- 2013 Solo show at Art Equity- *Beauty in the Face of Everything*

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- 2014 / *Witness* Survey exhibition, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery and Arts Centre, May- July 2014
ABC Television produces Artspace documentary *War Paint: The World According to George Gittoes*.
- 2015 State Library NSW acquires George Gittoes' visual diaries – 2001-2014
Winner, Sydney Peace Prize
Feature documentary, 'Snow Monkey' released at the Melbourne International Film Festival
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