

# Media Release

Photography Exhibition - "**Homage to Chicks**"

*Sophie Howarth Photography*

*Head On Photo Festival featured Exhibition 2022*

As the official photographer for one of the world's most successful rock music festivals, the Big Day Out, Sophie Howarth became fascinated with capturing the festival experience—the audience, performer, energy and the binding connection that is unseen. A regular at all festivals, including Splendour in the Grass, LIVID, Homebake, Vibes on a Summer's Day and Summersault, Sophie established her art practice in the genre of visual anthropology.

**Homage to Chicks** represents over 20 years of imagery from Sophie's music photography archive from music festivals and musician portraiture. It showcases Sophie's work from 1990-2012. **Homage to Chicks** is a new artwork reimaged through this edit into a singular narrative highlighting women in the music industry.

This series of 126 photographs create a complete artwork with a single message of reverence which is at the heart of her art practice. It is inspired by the many women she has documented. To them "I pay homage" and establish them at the centre of this story.

**Homage to Chicks** aligns with the current climate of women's empowerment throughout all industries.

The images that narrate **Homage to Chicks** are of women's presence in all aspects of the music scene. Equipped with Access All Areas at festivals, live gigs, tours and portrait shoots, Sophie captured an anthology of Australian musicians and international touring artists. Through Sophie's sensitive observation, **Homage to Chicks** reveals deep intimacy. Sophie had rare access and developed a relationship with the individuals over a long career. This enabled her to capture all aspects of this scene during this era.

The narrative of photographs in **Homage to Chicks** uses a combination of wide and detail shots, as well as landscape and portraiture. The series takes viewers on a 'ride,' immersing them in the festival crowds, taking them on stage with the musicians, and giving them exclusive views from backstage.

Sophie's photographs show viewers different aspects of women in the music industry. Images range from a Top End classroom with Shellie Morris as she uses music to teach Indigenous kids about healthy tucker, to PJ Harvey as she stares down the lens moments before going onstage at the Big Day Out.

The series captures key moments, such as Bjork's theatrical beauty on stage, Channel V presenter, Yumi Styne,—heavily pregnant—backstage at the Big Day Out, and artist Courtney Love as she screams out to her audience. There are many moments from Homebake, Splendour in the Grass, Big Day Out, Summersault; all our Australian festival favourites are represented, transporting the viewer to experience the electric atmosphere.

The historical aspect is fascinating and uplifting. Best of all, **Homage to Chicks** feels inclusive because it touches our universal humanity: photography having the power to inspire, educate and transform the viewer.

Willoughby City Council is gratefully acknowledged for the provision of Art Space on The Concourse.

## What

*Homage to Chicks* Photography Exhibition

126 x photographic prints as one artwork 1720cm

3 x Large framed prints

## Where

Art Space on The Concourse

409 Victoria Ave, Chatswood 2067

Next to The Concourse Concert Hall Box Office

## When

2 – 13 November 2022, 10-6pm

Opening event: Tuesday 8th November at 6-9pm

Extended Hours: Thursday 3rd November til 8pm

Early close: Friday 4th November 10-3pm

Closed Monday: 7th November

**Why**

Head On Photo Festival 2022  
w: headon.org.au  
instagram: @headonphotofest

**All Enquires Sophie Howarth Photography**

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**Note**

Keep up to date with **Homage to Chicks** events via  
instagram: @sophiehowarthphotography / @headonphotofest  
fb: Sophie Howarth Photography

**Join Sophie's mailing list**

e: info@sophiehowarthphotography.com

The End  
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