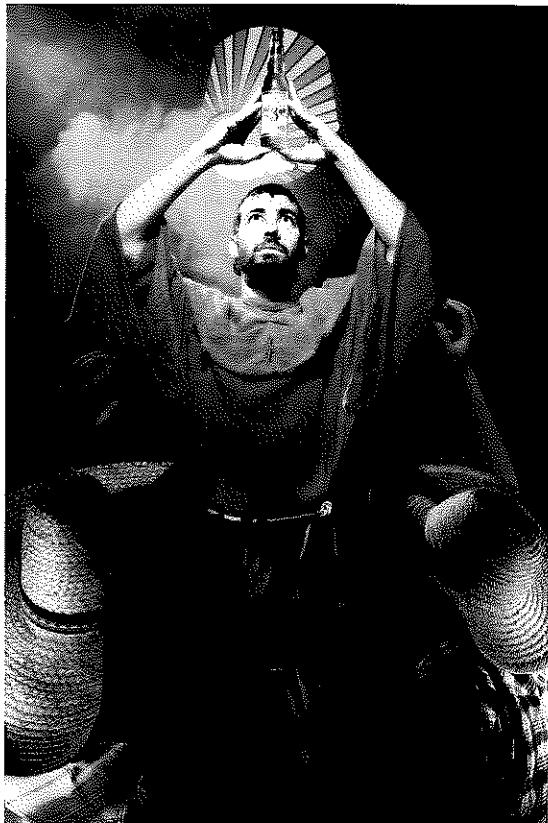


flink: MEET THE 2009 Exposed Challenge Winners

Marc Gafen learns about the forces driving the dynamic duo of Amy Carkeek and Nic Briaais.



Capture: How did you get started in photography?

Amy: I have always been interested in the visual and from a young age obsessed over the images in the family photo albums. I then started to compulsively clip photographs and fill scrapbooks of images. Once I had saved enough pocket money to buy my first camera I never looked back!

Nic: I had considerably less direction, having always produced artwork in various mediums. I bought a camera and found photography to be an intensely satisfying tool with which to create imagery.

Capture: Where did you study? How long have you been shooting?

flink: We both studied for a Bachelor of Photography at Griffith University at the Queensland College of Arts, graduating in 2003. We have been shooting autonomously and together ever since we met. We decided in late 2006 to make working together one name and one entity: *flink*.

Capture: How did you two meet and what prompted you to work together?

flink: We met at university on the first day and we soon realised our common interest in photography was not the only thing we shared – a love of B-grade movies, superheroes, music, cartoons, authors and an intense interest in popular culture. Our aesthetic and ethical values are also quite similar and it was a fairly natural progression for us to collaborate on works together.

Capture: Where do you see your career heading over the next one to three years?

flink: We aim to continue working together and taking on new challenges, increasing our client base and heading in the creative direction we have already initiated. We're currently working on a new series of work on Australian culture and identity with our usual tongue-in-cheek approach.

Capture: What are some of the advantages of working collaboratively?

flink: Having another person to throw ideas back and forth with and know they will understand it, add something else to it, or find what's missing and want it to be as great as you is unparalleled. It makes creating work, refining ideas and formulating lighting setups

a very thorough and objective process.

To work with someone who understands the lows when they arise is something only a photographer and someone who has been on the same ride can really understand. Sharing the amazing highs of when you deliver what the client wants, achieve a goal or simply going back through the images of a successful shoot together is indescribable. Plus we always have an assistant!

Capture: How do you actually work together? What's the process? And what do you each bring to the table?

flink: We perform everything equally, from shooting, to the day-to-day administration of the business. We collaborate on the initial idea or direction of the shoot, sourcing props, creating sets and doing light tests. We plan our shoots quite meticulously and leave nothing to chance. One will shoot and the other will check the shots on the laptop as they are created. We then post produce in tandem. We work remarkably well together – Amy has a great eye for framing the image, and Nic has a head for problem solving in the studio.

Capture: Who are some of your inspirations?

flink: We are both mad for art, music, film, and literature. We love slick lighting, saturated colours, and are heavily influenced by the comical and somewhat scary side of human behaviour. To name only but a few of our main inspirations – David Lynch, The Coen Brothers, Charles Bukowski, Hunter S. Thompson, John Waters, Tim Burton, Ron English, Annie Leibovitz, Miles Aldridge, Erwin Olaf, Martin Parr, Helmut Newton, Diane Arbus, Pierre and Gilles, Andy Warhol, Matthew Barney and Alfred Hitchcock.

Capture: How did you come up with the name?

flink: We wanted something that would represent not only who we are and what we're about, but what we want to achieve. We saw the word "flink" on the pack of a spare fuse hanging on the back of a beat up old Elinchrom head we used to cart around. It's a little old Dutch/Swedish word that means "rapid, fast, bright, nimble, accurate".



TOP & BOTTOM: *Sol Salvation.*
All You Can Eat – Leigh – Chicken Schnitzel.