

# firstdraft

Gallery 2

2 June 2023 – 9 July 2023

## Staging Portraits: Queer community photos at The Bearded Tit

Dorcas Tang 邓佳颖

*Staging Portraits* (2022 – ongoing) is a portrait series of the community at The Bearded Tit, a queer institution and bar in Redfern. Through photographs and written responses, it offers a glimpse into the ways queer people have redefined concepts of home and family, often out of necessity and survival. The work engages with the legacy of studio portraiture as a means of self-representation and its relationship to queer visual aesthetics.

In response to continued transphobic and homophobic violence, *Staging Portraits* also seeks to explore the joy and pleasure in the relationships we cultivate with one another. Ultimately, it is a love letter to The Bearded Tit — a devotion to sacred queer kinships formed while dancing, drinking, crying, laughing, and embracing.

*Staging Portraits* has been produced on the stolen lands of the Gadigal people of the Eora nation. I would like to pay our respects to their elders — past, present, and emerging — and to any Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people encountering this work. In addition, Redfern (where The Bearded Tit is located) is a suburb that has been and continues to be crucial for Aboriginal civil rights and activism. Through this acknowledgement, I hope to demonstrate a commitment to dismantling the legacies of settler-colonialism and to acknowledge the theft and violence inherent to our settlement of these lands.

**Dorcas Tang 邓佳颖** is a third-generation Chinese-Malaysian photographer and artist currently working, thinking, and playing on unceded Gadigal land. She is interested in the crucial intersections of photography, history, and archival silences. As a daughter of the Chinese diaspora, at the core of her practice is consent and care for her communities while grappling with the intrinsic violence of the camera and archival practices. Her visual projects include *Los Paisanos del Puerto*, examining the Chinese diaspora of Costa Rica, and *Love Me Long Time*, exploring desire, intimacy, and Asian identity. Ultimately, she seeks to encourage critical dialogue through creating socially engaged visual narratives.

Gallery 1

**Threads: a group exhibition by Refugee Art Project + Taring Padi**

Gallery 3

**Body Says, No**  
Danica I. J. Knežević

Gallery 4

**Main Drag**  
Easton Dunne

**firstdraft**  
gadigal land  
13–17 riley street  
woolloomooloo  
nsw 2011  
+61 2 8970 2999  
firstdraft.org.au

**we acknowledge and pay respect to the gadigal people of the eora nation, the traditional owners of the land on which firstdraft is built and operates.**

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**Artworks** (clockwise from left, and top to bottom)

For sales enquiries, please email [dorcastjy@gmail.com](mailto:dorcastjy@gmail.com)

*Amit and Grace, 2022*  
phototex  
66 x 44 cm

*Peter, Ally, Laura, Pat, Julia and Marls, 2023*  
inkjet print on Hahnemühle Museum Etching  
51 x 36 cm

*Pat and Marls, 2023*  
inkjet print on Hahnemühle Museum Etching  
17 x 25 cm

*Lyndsay and Joy, 2022*  
phototex  
66 x 51 cm

*Ally and Sid, 2023*  
inkjet print on Hahnemühle Museum Etching  
39 x 28 cm

*Jezabel, Jamie, Cori, and Jen, 2022*  
inkjet print on Hahnemühle Museum Etching  
51 x 35 cm

*Jen, Freya, and Andre, 2023*  
phototex  
51 x 76 cm

*Jen*  
inkjet print on Hahnemühle Museum Etching  
18 x 25 cm

*Freya, 2022*  
inkjet print on Hahnemühle Museum Etching  
15 x 23 cm

*Andre, 2022*  
inkjet print on Hahnemühle Museum Etching  
17 x 23 cm

*Jack and Daniel, 2022*  
inkjet print on Hahnemühle Museum Etching  
24 x 36 cm

*Gilbert, 2022*  
phototex  
51 x 68 cm

*Bel and Natesha, 2022*  
inkjet print on Hahnemühle Museum Etching  
43 x 31 cm

*Lucia and Catherine, 2022*  
inkjet print on Hahnemühle Museum Etching  
43 x 32 cm

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*Kels and Andy, 2022*

inkjet print on Hahnemühle Museum Etching  
46 x 28 cm

*Imbi, 2022*

phototex  
60 x 51 cm

*Ari and Jerico, 2022*

inkjet print on Hahnemühle Museum Etching  
41 x 27 cm

*Genevieve, 2022*

inkjet print on Hahnemühle Museum Etching  
28 x 39 cm

*Fuji and Blake, 2022*

inkjet print on Hahnemühle Museum Etching  
38 x 28 cm

*Elinor and Santo, 2022*

phototex  
64 x 42 cm

*Jarrah, Kai, Mia, and Peggy, 2022*

inkjet print on Hahnemühle Museum Etching  
38 x 26 cm

*Sid, Salote, Hayley, and Kate, 2023*

inkjet print on Hahnemühle Museum Etching  
41 x 30 cm

*Laura, Faith, and Libby, 2023*

inkjet print on Hahnemühle Museum Etching  
43 x 28 cm

*Michael and Carrie, 2023*

phototex  
64 x 42 cm

*Trent, 2022*

inkjet print on Hahnemühle Museum Etching  
25 x 38 cm

*Sana, Phina, Maddy, and Monty, 2023*

inkjet print on Hahnemühle Museum Etching  
53 x 36 cm

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A big thank you to:

Amit, Grace, Peter, Ally, Laura, Pat, Julia, Marls, Lyndsay, Joy, Ally, Sid, Jen, Freya, Andre, Jezabel, Jamie, Cori, Jen, Jack, Daniel, Gilbert, Bel, Natesha, Lucia, Catherine, Imbi, Kels, Andy, Ari, Jerico, Genevieve, Michael, Carrie, Sid, Salote, Hayley, Kate, Laura, Faith, Libby, Elinor, Santo, Blake, Fuji, Kai, Jarrah, Mia, Peggy, Trent, Sana, Phina, Maddy, Monty, and many others, for their time and presence,

Tasch Arndt, Adelaine Andres, Belinda Baker, Randall Barry, Misha Campbell, JoyAngelica Chan, Grace Chen, Christine Chua, Lexie Deng, Olivia Gould-Fensom, Lisa Kato, Lucia TƯỜNG Vy Nguyễn, Maria Novicic, Natesha Somasundaram, Reina Takeuchi, Ron Tarver, Alina Wang, Rachel Walker, for keeping me in your orbits,

Joy Ng and The Bearded Tit, Gillian Kayrooz, and Nadia Odlum, for their invaluable faith in the project,

Paradise Journal (Umi Graham, Will McRoberts, and Holly Davison), The Awesome Foundation Sydney, and Supper Sessions (Anna May Kirk), for the support,

Harrison Witsey, for the install expertise,

Kiera Brew Kurec, Keesha Field, Caity Reynolds, Zoe Theodore, Alana Wesley, and Firstdraft, for caring for the work,

Kate Bush, for providing this sad girl with a soundtrack,

Finally — my parents,

Chua Siew Lee and Tang Soon Fatt,

for their acceptance and love.

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