

Basic Detail Report



00001256

Title
Sunbaker, 1937

Date
1937

Primary Maker
Max Dupain

Medium
Paper

Dimensions

Overall: 370 x 400 mm Mount / Matt size: 717 x 522 mm Display dimensions (Frame): 745 x 550 x 45 mm

Name
Silver gelatin print

History
Dupain preferred black and white photography to capture the dazzling light and colour of the Australian seaside. He was a leading figure of the modernist New Photography movement in the 1930s and pursued a life long fascination with extremes of light, perspective and its relationship to form. "Max used to say that his punishment in hell would be to print the 'Sunbaker' forever. He reckoned it was one of the most difficult to print because the neg was so poor - stretched and blotchy". ('State of the Art', Number 8, April 1994). "It was taken on some empty South Coast beach, where a group of friends were camping one summer weekend. One, glistening from the surf, flung himself on the sand, pillowed his head on a forearm, and slept in the sun. Another of the group, 26 year old Max Dupain, photographed him as he lay, and the ensuing image, Sunbaker 1937, was to become an Australian icon. Endlessly reproduced in prints, on posters and bookcovers, it still retains its sheer physical impact, the near-tangible glisten of water and grit of the sand" (Sydney Morning Herald, 1 August 1992).