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by Matthew Robert Joseph

Hello again.

How's it hangin'?

The title of this book is 2018 represented in Thai, 2018 is the 2561st year in the Buddhist calendar. Why Thai? Because their food is fucking delicious!

Welcome to the 8th year of this Xmas Book/zine/brag book thing. What a year!

Biggest event this year was of course leaving PhotoQ, talk about drama! You can contact me if you want to know all of the finer details but I had just had a gutfull of how I was treated there, the working conditions and basically just sick of being there and generally working in retail. So yeah 11 years at PhotoQ and what do I have to show for it? A big fat fucking zero. I had to organise my own leaving party (that my boss didn't come to) and no fake gold watch or anything. I couldn't be happier! If you want to know where I'm working now you can damn well ask me.

So on top of 5 weeks of fUnemployment which wasn't that fun Ambré and I had two holidays in rAdelaide and a holiday in Rye/Bendigo. I also had nearly a week in Brisbane and nearly a week in Sydney while Ambré was there for work.

So what to expect in the book this year: NGV, Country adventures with Rhys, Russell, rAdelaide, The neighbourhood, Point Cook, Far Kew, Box Hill, Rye, Bendigo, Brisbane, The Gold Coast, More Brisbane, Sydney, Parramatta and rAdelaide again. Enjoy!

Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year!

Cheers,

MRJ.

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Taking photos at the NGV Triennial was an excellent way to start the year. Ron Mueck's "Mass" was a particular favourite of mine, watching people interacting with the skulls while trying not to touch them was interesting, also interesting was watching the poor NGV security guards deal with fuckwits. I bet they were from Zone 3.



One day in January I was able to spend the day with my mate Rhys in the country. I took the drone as well as the Xpan, guess what I had more fun shooting with? Here's a hit, one of these things I still own, I'm sure you can work out what happened. But it did lead to better things which you will also work out soon enough.



Here is my mate Rhys taking a photo of some rocks. I never did see how this photo worked out. Rhys is going to take more photos in 2019, aren't you Rhys. Actually another highlight of our day exploring the country was me chasing him down a country road with the drone, fun times, for me, not my running friend. Oh well.



So I bought a new camera this year and I am happy to say it is a piece of shit. This is Russell, he is a Mamiya 528 TL and I paid a whopping \$10 for him at an Op shop. He is named after his previous owner Mike Russell. I bought him so I could enter the Sunny 16 Podcast's Cheap Shots Challenge photography competition, which I haven't won, yet.



Here are some colours from one of the car parks in Box Hill. I just realised that they are not in order and I am too fucking lazy to put them in order now. It was at this point that I realised that standard 35mm frames are fucking boring and that they also did nothing for me in terms of the size of the film also. Time to start the search.



This was taken in rAdelaide at Easter, we went down for Ambré's birthday, she decided to have a nap and so I thought I'd go out for a bit of a photo walk around Glenelg. This guy was just minding his own business watching the sun go down when I came up behind him and took this photo. I also took digital photos but nobody liked them.



This old fella was having a little peep at what was going on behind the shade cloth, don't worry it was just an expensive outdoor cinema. I took this on my Olympus mju-ii compact camera. Unfortunately something happened and that camera is now pretty much dead. RIP little mju. 2000 - 2018. :{



Oh how I do love an above view of a food court in full swing, nobody was holding back, I saw someone loose a fucking arm I swear. One guy was watching me like a hawk though and I did have to evade security, all of this was going on while Ambré was looking for the bathroom.



So here it is, another new camera, this one cost a bit more than \$10 though. This is a Fujifilm GA645W, it's a wide angle, medium format, point and shoot camera. That might mean something to some of you. I bought it with what money was left after selling the drone, which was a hit that I will never forget. Better quality photos than a drone also.



Here is one of the earliest photos I took with the Fuji. I took this at Doncaster Shopping Town. I love how Jeffrey Smart this photo is, the colour, the sky, the perspective. I seriously love this camera. It is so easy to use it actually feel a little wrong and the quality of the images is just amazing. I should have bought one ages ago.



I took this photo one night on the way home from work with the Fuji at my local train station. Apparently this dog is actually a nosy bitch, her owner told me this.



I took this photo in my favourite Melbourne suburb to photograph, Point Cook. This jerk kept driving past me. New estate wise there wasn't much new or interesting to take photos of. After I took the photo the jerk got out of his car and asked me "Can I ask what you are doing?" I simply said "No" and walked away.



I found another abandoned house in a new estate, less than 500m from the last one. Of course I only had one camera with me, I would have loved to have had the 12mm and Sony with me for a walkthrough. Lucky for me though I had a camera with a built-in flash which gave this scene some life.



This is Chris. Chris wanders around Kew. I asked him if I could take a photo of him. We go outside and I take a couple of shots. I told him I would have a photo for him on Friday. Friday rolls around and Chris comes in after work. I show it to him. No reaction. He wants me to put it in a photo envelope for him. Then he's out the door.



This fierce beast was barking, frothing and snapping at bypassers, guarding the family car with all of their might. But as soon as I got close enough to take this photo they shut up and ducked down.



So a house around the corner from me has been empty for a while, then one evening on the way home I notice half of it missing, I of course grab a couple of cameras and head back and take some photos. Then, under the cover of darkness, I go back with a digital camera and flash the shit out of it. The empty lot is still empty, what a waste.



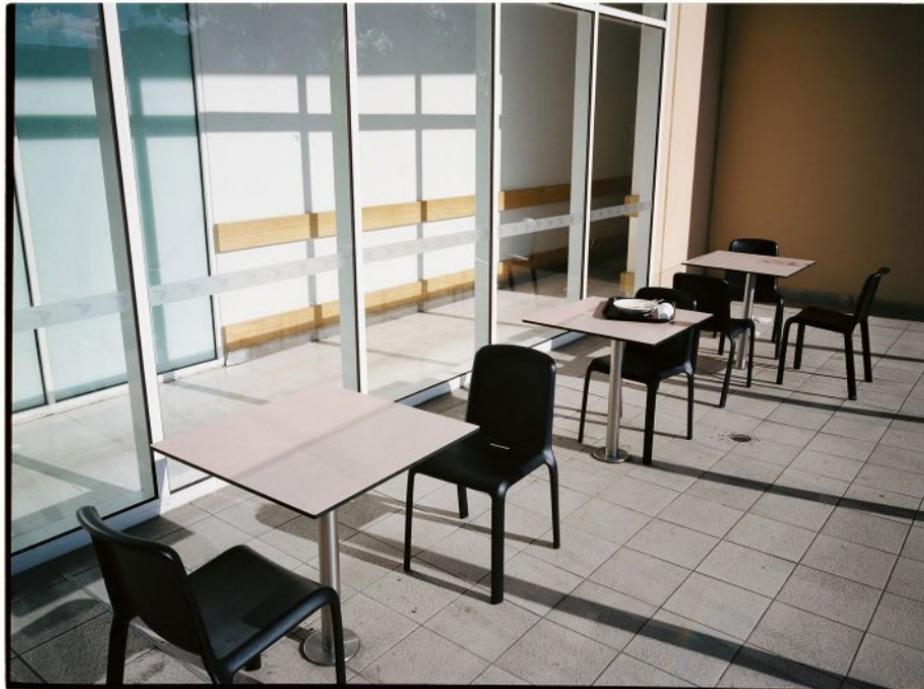
Williams Fucking Landing. Can you believe that they let them use the word fucking in the middle of their suburb name. It's a crap suburb that they built between The Lav and The shit ponds in Werribee. The train station is ok though, especially if you like it wide like me.



I took this photo on a nice Sunday afternoon in Box Hill. After I took the photo the gentleman asked me if I was going to deport him. It makes me sad that there are people out there who are living with this fear. It also makes me sad that he thought that an Australian Public Servant would work on a Sunday.



You're probably wondering why this photo is on an angle. Well I decided when I got the new camera that I would be a more honest photographer with this camera. I spend a bit of time cropping my Xpan photos to make them straight and improve the composition. All of the photos I have shared from the Fuji are as is, no cropping, no alterations, nothing.



I absolutely love the work of John Register and Edward Hopper and one afternoon I was having a walk around my area with the Fuji and I came upon this scene in Box Hill. I think this is the best photo that I have taken this year. Well up to this point at least. Let's see what else I have on offer...



So I was in Box Hill for the last photo after that I walked home but forgot that I needed to get some shopping, so I walked back to Box Hill with the Xpan and took this photo. The joys of shooting long and wide, I think the guy on the right was too busy trying to work out why I was taking a photo of the guy on the left to notice the lens pointed at him.



A rare treat, a colour Xpan photo. What makes it even rarer treat is that the people in the frame are visiting from Christchurch. Tim is shooting Anna at the MOMA exhibition. What did I think of the exhibition? Well I am glad you asked. First class artists but second class examples of their work. They still gotta make money in New York you know.



So for holiday number 2 this year we went to Rye for a few days and stayed in a cool little cottage. This is not the cool little cottage. This is a cool little art deco place that I found practically abandoned on the side of the road in Blairgowrie, near Rye.



So while we were away in Rye enjoying the hot pools I took up a new hobby. Watercolour Sketching. I fucking love it. I haven't really drawn anything since high school and I did give watercolour painting a go last year and it was ok. The sketching engages my creative side and the colouring is very relaxing. Nothing but sketches from here on in the book.



Such lies! I think there will be one more drawing before the end of this book. Maybe. This photo was taken on the Sorrento Queenscliff Ferry or as it is also know, the Queenscliff Sorrento Ferry. There was a taxi aboard the ferry which I found hilarious, I think the gentleman on the left was the driver of the said taxi.



So after Rye we went to Bendigo, why? You will find out soon enough. This was at the art gallery. Anyway! Did you know there is still a Pizza Hut restaurant in Bendigo? I made my friend Damian go with me, he was complaining about how bad it was while inserting slices of pizza into his face. He's going again next year, aren't you Damian.



So we went to Bendigo so Ambré could go to the Sheep and Wool Show. <Insert New Zealander related sheep shagging joke here> lol! It was basically a country fair with an emphasis on sheep and wool. There wa a lot of nice looking country food on offer, I wish I hadn't eaten so much deliciously shitty pizza beforehand.



The next day on the way home we visited a Sheep and Wool Show fringe event at a local bowling club. Inside it was a bit of a shit show of knitting related products and smelt like old ladies, musk and mothballs. Outside meanwhile this guy was having the time of his life rolling the lawn bowls grass, I wish I got his name! Looked like fun.



In August Ambré had to go to Brisbane for work, I took some time off work and went with her. I spent one day on the Gold Coast driving around, taking photos and catching up with people I know. This place was once known as Terranora Lakes Country Club, in the 90s they used to have a \$5 roast night. They also had Road Blasters in the kids room.



Brisbane. The setting sun was reflected off a building through the old post office. What I really want to tell you is that one of the best parts about going to Brisbane was catching up with my old high school friend Nick, I hadn't seen him in 21 years and we talked and talked like a day hadn't passed since I last saw him. Good times.



When I was in Brisbane I spent a lot of time at QAGOMA, the Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art. Unfortunately GOMA was taking down a major exhibition so I had to settle for photos of people. There was however a very interesting exhibition on Aboriginal cultural appropriation at the QAG, so many exploitative souvenirs on show.



This guy was just minding his own business one morning near Anzac (yes that's how you write it now) Park in Brisbane. As you can see in my shadow I am wearing my hat, unfortunately I forgot to take my hat with me and miraculously I was able to find one that would fit my massive head without too much looking. A miracle indeed.



This afternoon light was amazing, just creeping it's way through the buildings near where we were staying. I took a vertical panorama of this scene also but it doesn't present well in his book or anywhere really. It feels like Brisbane is one of the few cities in the world where quite often you have to go up a hill to get down a hill.



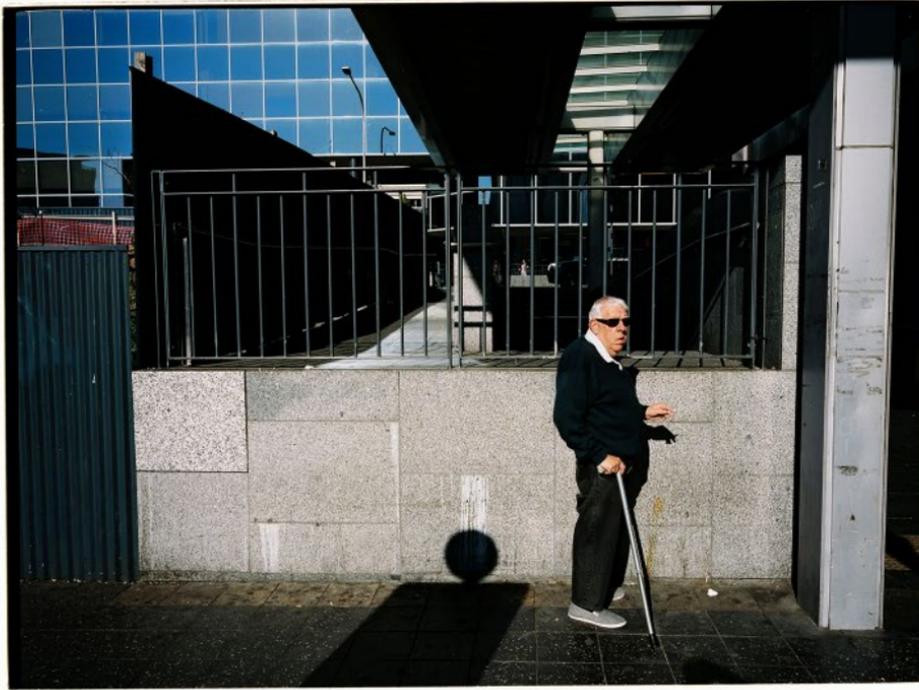
I saw this scene before it happened and I may have helped create it also. Brisbane people have always been an inquisitive bunch, if you look at something they will want to look at it also. So I saw the scene, spent some time looking into the art, walked away, this guy then went and looked into the art and when he was done, CLICK! Thank you sir.



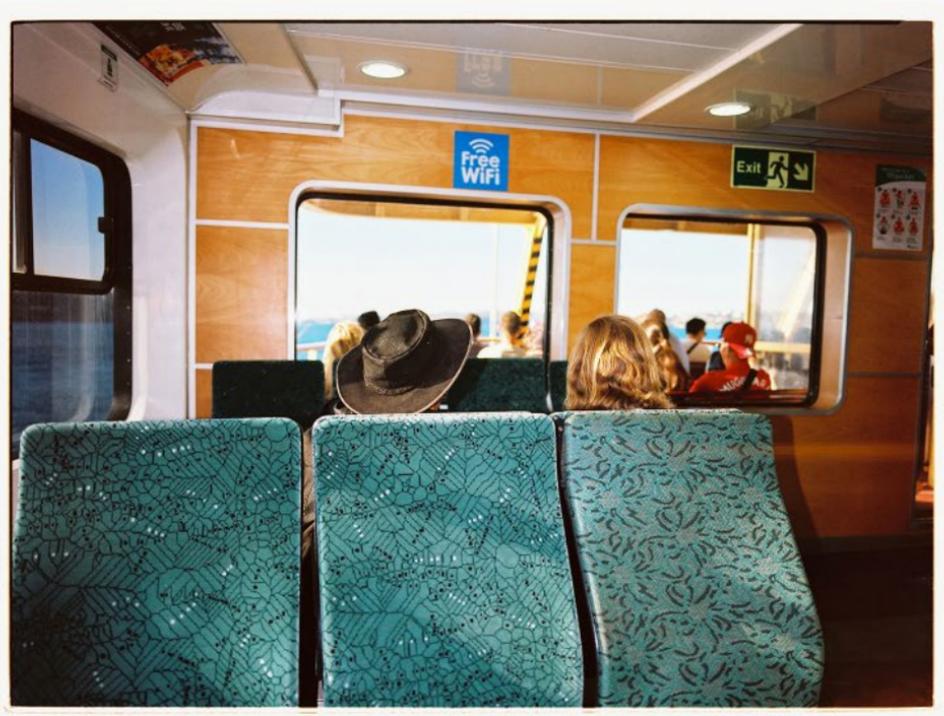
Next up is Sydney. Ambré had to go there for work also so guess who tagged along. It was me! I think I take this photo every time I go to Sydney. Earlier on this day I had been to Belanglo State Forest with my good mate Craig. Belanglo is where Ivan Milat did his shooty-shooty thing back in the 90s. Have you seen Wolf Creek?



This photo and the last one I was hanging out with Craig and another film and Xpan shooter Michael who is also from NSW. Later that night I ate the best ramen I have ever eaten (and I've been to Japan) in an underground food court in Haymarket. Gumshara, check it out, NOW! GO NOW! I also drank Korean rice wine which was strong as fuck.



So when I say Ambré was in Sydney for work what I actually mean is Ambré was in Parramatta for work. But you know what, despite what you might have heard about Parramatta it wasn't that bad. A young guy by the name of Gabriel approached me while I was there, not so that he could mug me, he's a photographer and spotted the Xpan.



One of the best parts about going to Sydney is spending time on the ferries, especially in the amazing afternoon light. I can always recommend the Manly ferry for a nice ride.
One of the worst parts about about going to Sydney is ending up in Manly, I can always recommend the Fast Ferry back to Circular Quay.



Actually I exaggerate. The afternoon light in the ferry terminal in Manly is amazing. After I took this I caught up with a dude I have known online for a number of years, we met at an old man's bar in Surry Hills, had a fresh Carlton Draft and then we walked to Chinatown and ordered far too much Chinese food. Cheers Mike!



On my last day in Parramatta I hung out with the young chap that I mentioned earlier, Gabriel. We had wander around Parramatta, walked under the motorway and through Harris Park, neither of us got stabbed which was really good I thought. This carpark was behind where we were staying and as you can see, was amazing.



So when I was offered my new job in late October, Ambré and I realised that she had not really had any time off since July, so with one day to spare I booked an emergency holiday to rAdelaide, twice in one year, who would have thought. I got to pat and feed some Quokkas, which was amazing, I do love those smiling little bastards.



Here is a photo that I haven't even uploaded yet, taken in rAdelaide using the Fuji and shot on my favourite film, Agfa Ultra 50. This photo also serves as an excellent segue, it's a clue as to why I haven't been doing any photography since the end of October. Red Dead Redemption 2. What a game. And now Fallout 76 is out. HELP!



And of course no book would be complete without a photo of Ambré.



This is a collection of my favourite images that I
have taken this year, 2018.
The title of the book is 2018 represented in Thai.
Why Thai? Because their food is fucking delicious.