

12 April 2011

Committee Secretary

Senate Standing Committees on Legal and Constitutional Affairs
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra, ACT 2600
Australia

Dear Committee Secretary

Inquiry into the Australian film and literature classification scheme

On 7 April 2011 the Arts Law Centre of Australia appeared before the Senate Inquiry into the Australian film and literature classification scheme. In that session we took a question on notice from Senator Barnett regarding photographs in a recent art exhibition by the artist Bill Henson.

The Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery in Sydney held an exhibition of Bill Henson's work from 6 May 2010 to 5 June 2010. A selection of the works exhibited then can be found at the gallery's website:

Roslyn Oxley9

http://www.roslynoxley9.com.au/artists/18/Bill_Henson/1222/

The exhibition received little media coverage:

Gallery submits Bill Henson's latest images to censors before new show

<http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/entertainment/art-and-design/gallery-submits-bill-hensons-latest-images-to-censors-before-new-show-20100424-tkiu.html>

The article states that the Classification Board granted the works an unrestricted classification. A search of the Classification Board database gives the following result for Bill Henson's work:

Search the Classification Database

BILL HENSON Publication (Photograph(s))



Classification	Unrestricted
Consumer Advice	
Category	Publication
Version	ORIGINAL
Duration	35 pages
Date of Classification	15/04/2010
Author	N/A
Publisher	BILL HENSON / ROSLYN OXLEY GALLERY
Production Company	
Country of Origin	AUSTRALIA
Applicant	ROSLYN OXLEY GALLERY
File Number	L10/1774
Classification Number	240643

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Source:

<http://www.classification.gov.au/www/cob/find.nsf/5c2433d416948a0bca25759f00820d25/ddbfc10be6cc513dca257706005d796e?OpenDocument>

There is at time of writing an exhibition of Bill Henson's work in Melbourne at the Tolarno Gallery (www.tolarnogalleries.com). It has received minimal media coverage which has stated that the works have classification approval:

Concern over new Bill Henson show

<http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/ipad/alarm-over-hensons-new-show/story-fn6bqphm-1226032004637>

Bill Henson review

<http://www.smh.com.au/entertainment/art-and-design/bill-henson-20110408-1d6gy.html>

We thank the Senate committee for their consideration of the issue.

Yours sincerely

Robyn Ayres