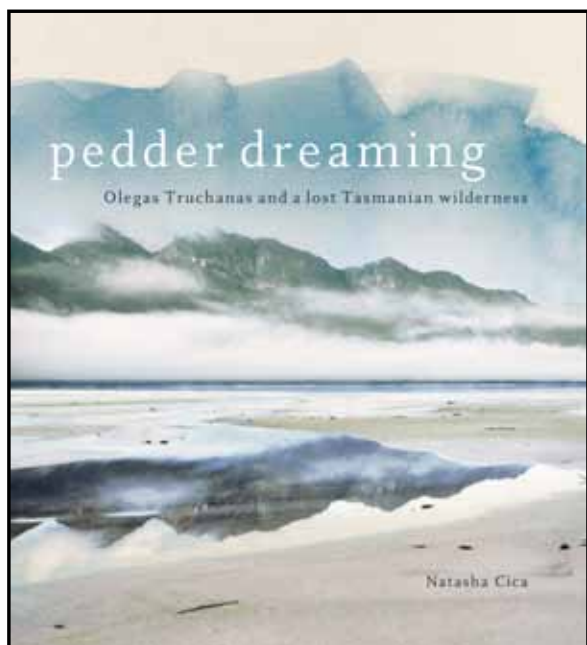


Pedder Dreaming: Olegas Truchanas and a lost Tasmanian wilderness by Natasha Cica

Published by UQP 2011 | 978 0 7022 3672 3 | RRP:\$59.95 | 230mm x 203 mm | Illustrated | 256pp (full colour)



Olegas Truchanas stands quietly among the twentieth century's most influential wilderness photographers ... subtly but surely he crafted the modern frame through which we now interpret the beauty and value of Tasmania's wild places.

Olegas Truchanas, a Lithuanian émigré, is remembered not only as one of the fathers of Tasmanian wilderness photography, but also as a conservationist, a thinker and an adventurer. Devoting years to campaigning passionately to save Lake Pedder from its eventual flooding in 1972, Olegas and those closest to him – including members of a small group of Tasmania's landscape artists known as the 'Sunday Group' – paved the way for later Tasmanian conservation successes.

In this beautifully designed book, *Pedder Dreaming: Olegas Truchanas and a lost Tasmanian wilderness*, author Natasha Cica quietly evokes the man, the time and the place. Having long been inspired by Truchanas' elegant and generous spirit, as well as those closest to him, Cica spent a significant number of years researching and writing *Pedder Dreaming*. According to Cica, 'Olegas' enduring legacy and that of the Sunday Group stretches far beyond the photographic, the political or even the personal'.

In retelling their moving story, Cica highlights the values underpinning the art and activism of Olegas and his friends, offering a departure point for readers to consider basic questions about how they choose to live their lives.

As former Premier of Tasmania David Bartlett comments in the book, 'Back then the voice they used was about beauty and nature. Today we use statistics and numbers and residues and outfalls, and how many grams of dioxins, and how many jobs. Perhaps the content of the conversation has changed as well as the way in which it's delivered – we have a much more content-hungry media cycle that really just wants a simple grab. I equate it almost to the death of the political speech as an art form – perhaps Truchanas and his crew were the equivalent of Chifley's "Light on the Hill" speech.' (pg. 227)

Stunningly illustrated with original Truchanas photographs from the 1950s, '60s and '70s, and artwork from the Sunday Group (many of which have not previously been published and are still in private collections), *Pedder Dreaming* captures the raw beauty, vulnerability and oft-times brutality of the Tasmanian wilderness.

This exquisite keepsake and inspiring artifact will appeal to anyone interested in Tasmania, in wilderness areas and beautiful landscapes, in our connections with the environment, in progressive political movements, and in our culture.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr Natasha Cica is the Director of the Inglis Clark Centre for Civil Society at the University of Tasmania and founder of the Hobart-based consultancy, Periwinkle Projects. Born, raised and living in Tasmania, Natasha has commented on politics and culture for a wide range of publications, including the *Age*, the *Sydney Morning Herald*, the *Australian*, the *Australian Financial Review*, *Griffith Review*, the *Mercury*, *Quarterly Essay*, *Island* and *Inside Story*. Natasha also helped establish online venture newmatilda.com in 2004 as its founding editor. She has also worked as a lawyer and parliamentary adviser and at public interest think tanks in Europe and Australia.



Credit Peter Whyte

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MEDIA RELEASE

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In recognition of her work as a thought leader and public interest commentator, expanding 'our sense of human possibility', Cica is a 2012 inaugural recipient of a prestigious Sidney Myer Creative Fellowship. Twelve Australians were selected from over three hundred nominations, with regard to two criteria: outstanding talent and exceptional courage.

ABOUT THE SIDNEY MYER FUND

The Sidney Myer Fund has a long history of providing support to the arts. Starting in Sidney Myer's own lifetime, the tradition of giving continues with these exciting new Fellowships. 'Sidney Myer was a passionate supporter of the arts as well as a great philanthropist, and was actively engaged in his community. The Fellowships support his belief that the arts are inseparable from everyday life, and that a rich society is one that expresses great creative spirit,' said Carrillo Gantner, Chairman of Trustees of the Sidney Myer Fund.

PRAISE FOR *PEDDER DREAMING*

'This is a beautiful book. It begs the reader to enter its pages, and get lost in its breathtaking beauty. It is a scholarly and insightful exploration of a man, and his passion for the environment. In this case, the world of his adopted Tasmania.' **Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia**

'In assessing Truchanas's legacy Cica demonstrates she is an astute commentator on contemporary Tasmanian life. Drawing on her understanding of the omnipresence of the past in the island's present, she makes some unexpected but intriguing connections.' *Weekend Australian*

'Truchanas, a wilderness photographer and post-war Lithuanian immigrant to Tasmania, has reached an almost mythical status in the minds of conservationists, photographers and artists alike. Cica's book offers a beautifully illustrated exploration of the reasons why.' *Sunday Tasmanian*

'This record of Truchanas's life and work is illustrated with photos of him, his pictures of the lost Lake Pedder and paintings by Patricia Giles, Max Angus and Elspeth Vaughan. The result is an artbook celebrating a great environmental warrior.' *Sydney Morning Herald 'Pick of the Week'*

'With this book, Cica has done Truchanas justice. Style sweetly matches substance.' *Canberra Times*

'A stunning tribute to the beauty of Lake Pedder.' *Readings Monthly*

'A gorgeous book.' *Sunday Age*

'Cica's text is in fine balance with the photographs and paintings, and all speak as poignantly as each other of what was lost.' *Saturday Age*

'Elegant design complements gorgeous Tasmanian images. Combined with text that is respectful and considered, the result is a book which is both a celebration and a cautionary tale.' *Courier-Mail*

'Olegas Truchanas' tireless work as a photographer determined to protect Tasmania's wilderness is recognised in this beautiful book.' *Australian Geographic*

'*Pedder Dreaming* is a beautiful book, richly illustrated with Truchanas's photography and the art and photography of his friends. Cica offers us much more than a biography; the book describes an important period in the development of Australian environmentalism, and it is a cautionary tale about the destructiveness of unchecked power.' *Inside Story*



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