

**Exhibition:** *Juno Gemes and Robert Adamson on the Hawkesbury River*

8 - 30 May 2026

Cross-pollination between activism and advocacy lay at the heart of how Juno Gemes and Robert Adamson worked together spanning five decades. Their kindred, collaborative spirits forged new realms of activism, shaped through a visual dialogue between the artist-photographer and the poet.



Juno Gemes *Laying down oyster sticks – Coba Bay, Winter 1994*, silver gelatin prints on Agfa Barata Museum Paper



Juno Gemes *Elders from Arakun and Mornington Island Greeting before Ceremony: Mornington Island, 1978* Photogravure printed on antique handmade paper with Gampi

**About:**

**Juno Gemes**

(b 1944 Hungary) writer, theatre director, photographer and publisher. Gemes moved to Australia when she was 5, studied at NIDA (National Institute of Dramatic arts) and from the late 1960s worked with the photograph, as she believed her photography could advocate for change. She is importantly known for her photographs depicting the cultural and political struggle of indigenous peoples in Australia.

<https://junogemes.com/>

**Robert Adamson**

(1943-2022) celebrated Australian poet, writer and publisher - also a lover of fishing and birds. He spent much of his teenage years in a home for juvenile offenders, for stealing a bird from Taronga Zoo, and this is where he started to write poetry. He has published many volumes of poetry, won many awards and was the chair of poetry at UTS (University of Technology Sydney)

**Studying:**

Research Adamson and Gemes - find a poem by Adamson such as:

[https://www.poetryinternational.com/en/poets-poems/poems/poem/103-842\\_THE-RIVER](https://www.poetryinternational.com/en/poets-poems/poems/poem/103-842_THE-RIVER)

- How do their different roles (photographer + poet) influence each others' works
- Gemes published a book of images - *Until Justice Comes*.
- Research this book and comment on the power of the photographic image to advocate for Justice

**Making**

Gemes and Adamson published a book - *The Language of Oysters*. Over a period of time they responded to the work and life of the oyster farmers and their families.

- Using any camera, create a series of images that examine the life and activities of a group within your own area. You might consider shopkeepers, commuters, farmers, gardeners, building workers etc
- Write a short poem dedicated to the group you have chosen for your photographic series of works