



Media release

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AUCKLAND ARTS FESTIVAL 2017: A VISUAL ARTS DEGUSTATION

8-26 MARCH AT GALLERIES AND LOCATIONS ACROSS AUCKLAND

Once again the Auckland Arts Festival visual arts programme is a diverse array of events and exhibitions showcasing work from the best in the business to the most exciting new kids on the block.

Over **19** days the 2017 Auckland Arts Festival (AAF) will present **10** major visual arts events and exhibitions as well as a new AAF-commissioned community arts project, *Whanui*, and the hugely popular **White Night**.

Headlining the visual arts programme is *Picturing Asia: Double Take – The photography of Brian Brake and Steve McCurry*, presented by Auckland Arts Festival and Te Uru Waitakere Contemporary Gallery in Titirangi and organised by Asia Society Hong Kong Centre. In this NZ-premiere exhibition, supported by The Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, stunning images by two of the great masters of documentary photography come together in a fascinating artistic conversation.

Picturing Asia: Double Take pairs and contrasts the work of New Zealander Brian Brake (1927-1988) and American Steve McCurry (born 1950). Brake, best known for his Monsoon photo essay in Life magazine in 1961, inspired McCurry with that series. McCurry later became famous for his 1984 photograph of Sharbat Gula, known as Afghan Girl, which was published on the cover of National Geographic in June 1985. Not just pictures of Asia, these photographs are also invitations to ‘picture this’ – to find the stories within.

Auckland Arts Festival partner Te Tuhi presents the world premiere of *In Transit (Arrival)*, a large-scale sculpture by artist Yona Lee that explores the structure and pulse of civilisation. This vast entangled structure, which you can walk through and sit within, is made of the stainless steel tube commonly used as barriers and handrails in train stations and airports around the world.

AAF 2017 heralds the world premiere of *Whānui*, a major new project produced by Auckland Arts Festival. Taking place in Auckland’s north, south, east and west, *Whānui* is collection of participatory arts projects – creative collaborations between established artists and the community – in which an amazing mix of people who call Auckland home create, join in with and experience artworks in the many spaces and places that form our neighbourhoods. More info and to get involved: www.aaf.co.nz/whanui.

Julianne Eason/The Clinic’s *Between the Dog and the Wolf* is a multi-sensory installation at the Basement Theatre that unfolds at dusk when the slowly fading light finds two young adults shut in a room in a summer house. In an interweaving of visual and aural systems of illusion, actors who never appear are heard speaking and moving among the audience, and an everyday scene takes on an otherworldly quality as it explores the unstable relationship between the world as it is and as we perceive it.

The Halo Project by Paul Forrest, Derek Tearne and Matu Booth, is a dynamic installation by three artists involved in eco-activism that celebrates our native birdlife through contemporary visual art and sound.

Halo refers to the effect of restored habitats and sanctuaries throughout New Zealand, such as Auckland’s Tiritiri Matangi island and Ark in the Park. During daylight hours and on *White Night*, at The Playspace in Silo Park, artist/painter Paul Forrest will be hosting the installation and creating new work on site so the public can engage with the artist at work.



The Exquisite Wound is an entrancing installation by Rebecca Swan and Charlie Ha that engages all senses and provokes enquiry into the nature of our existence. Presented by Te Uru Waitakere Contemporary Gallery and commissioned by Te Manawa, *The Exquisite Wound* contemplates how we relate to the disappearance of our physical bodies. Photographs, video, original music and interactive projections explore our relationships and responsibilities to ourselves, all living beings, and the planet we share.

Vanished Delft, curated by Anna Miles, is the NZ premiere of an exhibition of contemporary object-making in rooms once home to one of New Zealand's most extravagant collections of furniture and fittings. Today, this late 19th-Century Italianate mansion, Pah Homestead, is again home to a collection; the Wallace Trust's extensive holdings of contemporary New Zealand art.

Wellbeing through creativity is the inspiration for the Toi Ora Artists' Collective exhibition, ***The Everyday Creative***, which brings together painting, moving image, sculpture, printmaking and mixed media. The NZ premiere exhibition will be at Toi Ora Live Art Trust Gallery.

Still, Like Air, I'll Rise takes its title from Maya Angelou's poem that speaks powerfully of the triumph in defiance. The exhibition at ST PAUL St Gallery, One and Two, revisits Lisa Reihana's *Wag Features* 26 years after it was made, taking that work as a starting point to observe shifts in everyday and political discourse around gender, race and identity. The artists are Hannah Brontë (Australia), Skawennati (Canada), Esther Ige (Nigeria/NZ), Lisa Reihana (NZ), Salote Tawale (Fiji/Australia), and Leafa Wilson and Olga Krause (NZ).

Yuki Kihara's ***Der Papālagi (The White Man)*** responds to German Erich Scheurmann's 1921 book *Der Papālagi*. For this New Zealand premiere, at ST PAUL ST Gallery, Kihara staged a social experiment in which Christian and Barbara Durst – German migrants living in Sāmoa for over 24 years – “go native” appearing dressed in full indigenous Sāmoan regalia in and around Apia. The series raises questions about Sāmoan nationalism and the politics of home and belonging, exploring ethical boundaries between cultural appropriation and cultural appreciation.

Also in the visual arts line-up is a partnership between Auckland Arts Festival and Auckland War Memorial Museum, ***Antarctica – while you were sleeping***, in which artist Joseph Michael, in collaboration with composer Rhian Sheehan, has created a cinematic spectacle like no other – a one-to-one scale of an Antarctic iceberg projected on the surface of the mighty Auckland Museum complete with sound score.

The AAF wouldn't be complete without the hugely popular **White Night** when, for one night only, a huge group of artists take over the city presenting a diverse range of art, music and theatrical events at over 100 locations, including galleries, venues, laneways and in the streets.

The Auckland Arts Festival takes place 8-26 March 2017. Full programme at

About Auckland Arts Festival

Taking place annually in March, the Auckland Arts Festival is a globally recognised event that celebrates people and culture, and showcases the unrivalled location, cultural diversity and vibrant energy of New Zealand's largest city.

Auckland Arts Festival is governed by the Auckland Festival Trust. Trustees are John Judge (Chair), Rick Carlyon, Evan Davies, Sarah Judkins, Tarun Kanji, Margaret Kāwharu MNZM, Jim Moser, Ben Taufua and Fred Ward. The Trust receives core funding from Auckland Council through the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Act, and Creative New Zealand through the Toi Tōtara Haemata programme.

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