Peter Peryer, *Erika,* 1975. *Photo-Forum* 29 (December 1975/January 1976).p. 13. Silver gelatin print.

City Gallery Wellington

Te Whare Toi

Wellington
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MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga

History in the Taking: 40 Years of PhotoForum

About the Exhibition

These days, in New Zealand, photography is accepted as an art form, but it wasn't always the case. In 1973 PhotoForum was founded to lead the charge. Over the years, this grass-roots organisation has promoted photography through exhibitions and publications, particularly its magazine. An independent chapter ran PhotoForum Gallery in Wellington between 1976 and 1982.

PhotoForum has been a catalyst for debates within photography, about the virtues of different approaches. A product of the 1970s, PhotoForum saw the medium as entangled with counterculture lifestyles and protest movements. The show offers not only a history of New Zealand photography but also a slice of New Zealand social history.

History in the Taking brings together photographs published in the magazine and displayed in PhotoForum exhibitions. It features around 150 photographs tracing the development of art photography in New Zealand. It includes names like Peter Peryer, Anne Noble, Laurence Aberhart and Peter Black alongside now-neglected or forgotten figures.

Selected Artists

Peter Peryer (New Zealand, b.1941) made his name in the 1970s with emotionally charged photographic portraits. Most notable were a series taken of his wife Erika.
Later his work became more abstract, using natural forms, found objects and animals as his subjects. These works often play with scale and repetition.

Read an interview with Peter Peryer http://arts.tepapa.govt.nz/off-the-wall/7694/out-of-the-darkroom

Laurence Aberhart (New Zealand, b. 1949) makes black and white photographs, often of architectural subjects. Churches, marae, cemeteries and Masonic Lodges have featured in his images. These are structures which act as symbols of New Zealand's cultural heritage. He often seeks out subjects that are on the verge of being lost. Aberhart's highly detailed photographs are made using a nineteenth century, large format view camera. He shoots without a flash, using available light with long-exposures that last between one and twenty four hours.

More information on Aberhart's work can be found on his website http://laurenceaberhart.com/

Megan Jenkinson (New Zealand, b.1958) is well known for her manipulation of photographic images. Her early work explored intricate processes of hand-colouring and collage. *The Virtues* is a series of 40 intricate photo-collages made in 1996. More recently her work has employed digital photographic techniques to explore notions of vision and perception. She has created a series of lenticular photographs inspired by naturally occurring illusions.

Read an article about Megan Jenkinson's work:
http://www.thebigidea.co.nz/news/columns/mark-amery-visual-arts/2009/sep/61112-atmosphere-perception

John Miller has spent his life documenting protests with his camera. He is a self-described 'sympathetic observer' of anti-war, civil rights, anti-apartheid, anti-nuclear and Māori political protests. Miller began taking photographs of demonstrations against the Vietnam War as a secondary school student in 1967. His work is part of the tradition of documentary photography.

Information about *Tour Scums*, Miller's recent exhibition at City Gallery Wellington, can be found here
http://www.citygallery.org.nz/exhibitions/john-miller-tour-scrums

Pre-Visit and Post-Visit Classroom Activities

Make a Camera Obscura
Visual Art, Science, Technology.
Explore how light travels through the lens of a camera by making a camera obscura (Latin: 'dark chamber'), an optical device that led to photography and the invention of the camera.

For step by step instructions to make a simple camera obscura
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y0wenfVfHuo

For a step by step guide to turn a room into a giant camera obscura:
http://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/magazine/ngm-camera-obscura

Make a Pinhole Camera
Visual Art, Science, Technology.
With some light sensitive paper and dark room chemicals you can turn your camera obscura into a pinhole camera
http://www.instructables.com/id/How-To-Make-A-Pinhole-Camera/
Repurpose an ordinary, lightproof container into a pinhole camera. Try searching online for inspiration, you will find cameras made from all sorts of recycled packaging. Have a class exhibition of your pinhole photographs displaying the homemade cameras next to the images they produced.

Start a Photography Club
Visual Art.
Before photography became an accepted medium in art galleries the PhotoForum members often exhibited new work in magazines. Start your own photography club and develop a magazine or online presence to show your work.

Join our Instagram Competition
Visual Art.
History in the Taking includes examples of street and architectural photography made in Wellington over the last four decades. Add your own take to this tradition and join our Instagram competition. Create a photograph that captures your perspective on the people, the buildings, cultures or activities that represent contemporary Wellington.

- Take a photo of a Wellington place or space that you feel strongly about. Include a title and phrase about why you have chosen it.
- Post your pic to Instagram with @CityGalleryWellington and #WellyPhotoForum.

Check out our website for further details:
http://citygallery.org.nz/news/capture-wellington-our-photoforum-instagram-competition

Further Information

Visit the City Gallery website for more information about the exhibition http://citygallery.org.nz/exhibitions/history-taking-40-years-photoforum