



A PORTRAIT OF LAW

photographic exhibition

*Photographers :
Adrienne Martyn, Janet Bayly,
Peter Black, Laurence Aberhart.*

BUDDLE FINDLAY  Law
Week

in association with QEII Arts Council of New Zealand



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— FOREWORD

Society is inextricably linked to the law; no-one can escape its influence, even in the most everyday activities. The arts, too, surround us — whether perceived through a 'childs' crayon creativity or the nuances of a master artist. These juxtapositions — society, the law and the arts — form the basis of *A Portrait of Law*, an exhibition of photographs commissioned by Buddle Findlay. The four photographers whose work forms the exhibition — Laurence Aberhart, Janet Bayly, Peter Black and Adrienne Martyn — are all highly regarded by their profession. Their personal interpretations of the law in New Zealand society, as portrayed in this exhibition, are statements from which all of us can draw a common element in our own lives.

We believe the results of the artists' efforts are not only an immediate personal and visual recognition of the law in New Zealand, but also an important archival contribution to its influence over all New Zealanders.

For Buddle Findlay, the exhibition and association with the artists and the QEII Arts Council of New Zealand reflects the role it, the law in general and the arts, play in our society.

It symbolises our commitment to the premise that our responsibility to, and involvement with, society extends beyond the courtroom and the legal process. The law, as with the arts, is for every New Zealander.

The partners of Buddle Findlay

This exhibition is significant for two reasons: it represents the response of four of our finest photographers to a challenging brief, and it is the end result of the kind of enlightened corporate patronage which the Arts Council is keen to encourage.

The artists concerned were commissioned to produce a portfolio of images on the theme *A Portrait of Law*. Each was given a substantial fee and total artistic freedom to interpret the subject in their own individual ways. This kind of confidence in artists is rare and Buddle Findlay are to be congratulated for providing them with a generous and challenging commission.

John McCormack
Manager
Visual Arts Programmes
QEII Arts Council of New Zealand

— LAURENCE ABERHART

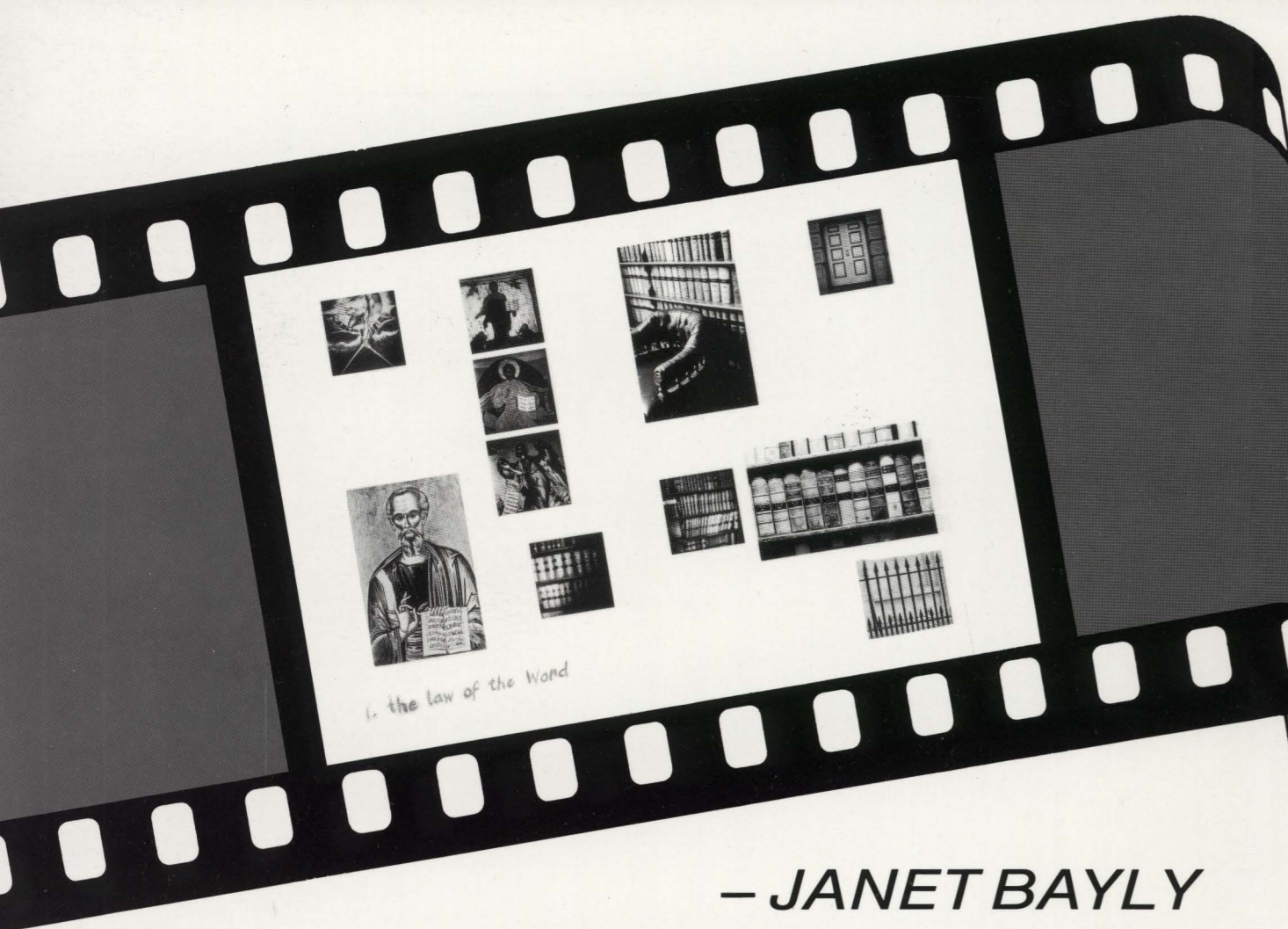
Born and educated in Nelson 1949; taught photography at the University of Canterbury School of Fine Arts 1977-1981; recipient of QEII Arts Council grants in 1982, 1984 and 1986; represented in a number of one-person and group exhibitions; artist-in-residence at the Tylee Cottage residency 1986; currently living in Russell and working full-time on his photography.

The Sargeant Art Gallery is currently organising a major survey of Aberhart's work. The exhibition will open later this year and then tour nationally.

"In the late 1970s a large number of the smaller District Courthouses in New Zealand were closed down. At the time, I lamented their passing and wished that there had been the opportunity to record them. The oldest of the existant courthouses are still endangered, both from demolition and architectural modernisation.

I have used this commission as an opportunity to carry out a small photographic documentary project, looking at and recording aspects of the smaller New Zealand courthouse as it is at this particular period of time. Hopefully, it will allow some a moment to reflect also on what has been and what is to come from what would appear to be a period of transition."

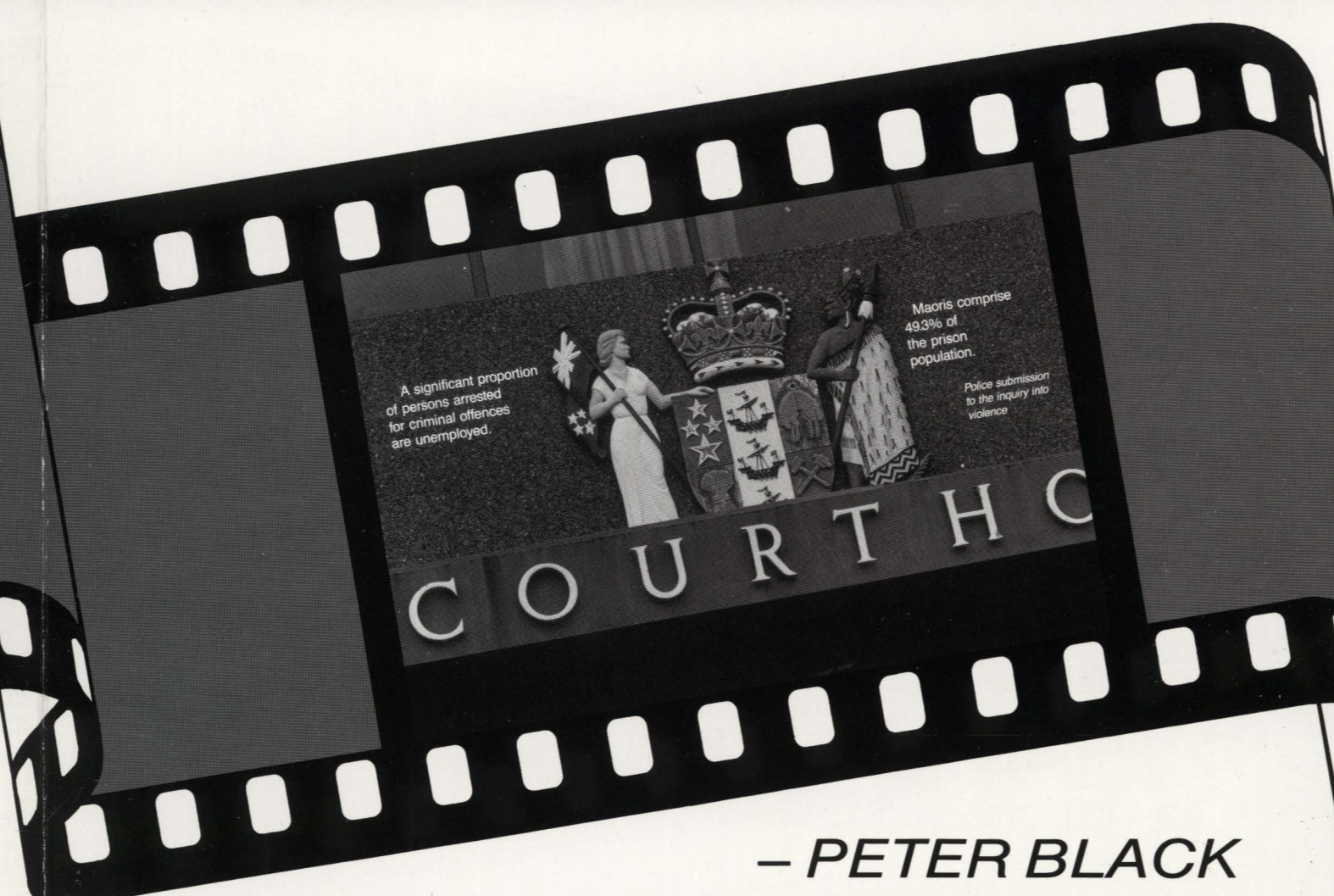




– JANET BAYLY

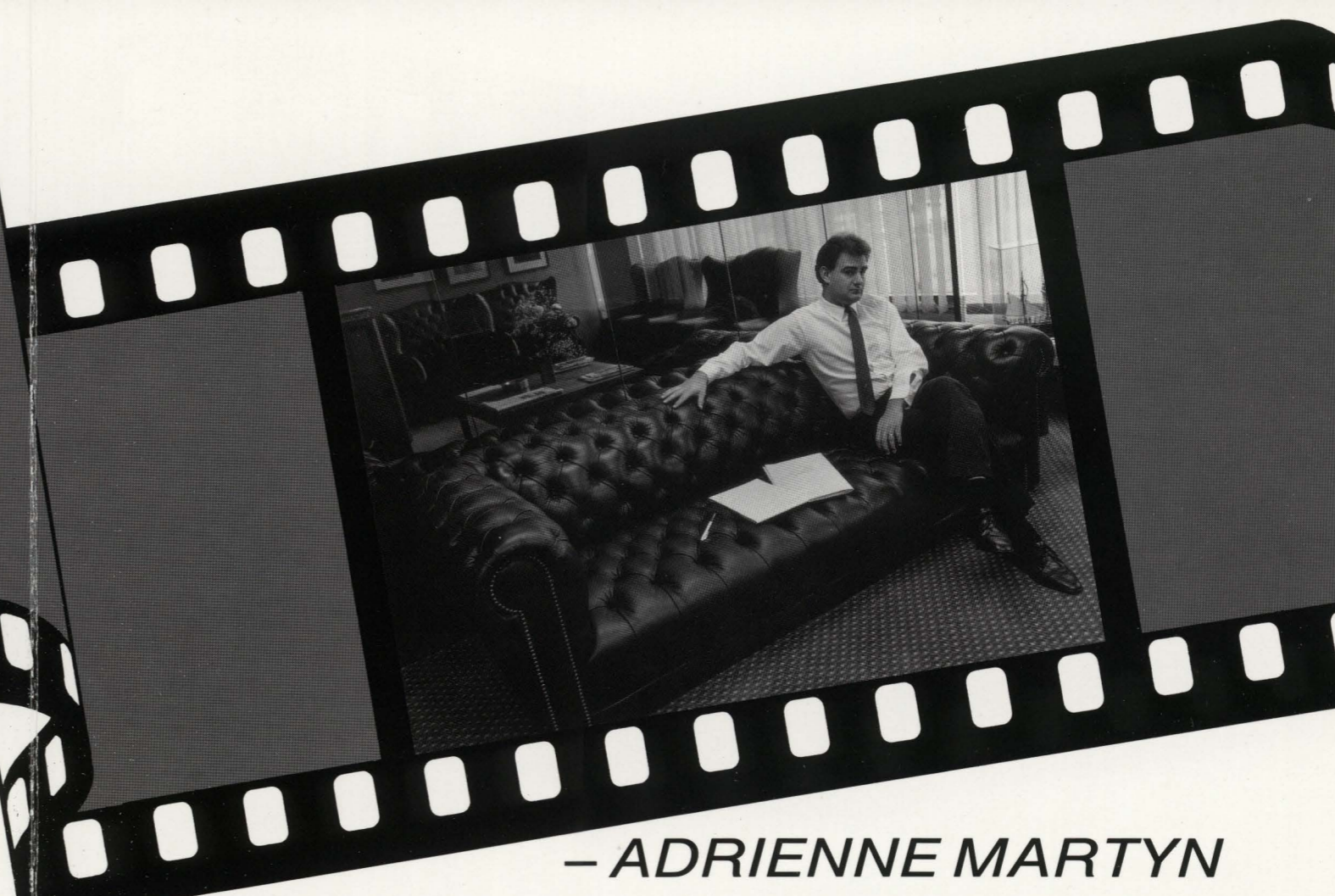
Born in Tauranga 1955 and educated at Auckland University, graduating with a Master of Fine Arts in 1979; recipient of Arts Council awards in 1981 and 1982; and the Anne C. Martindell Award for Young Artist in 1982; represented in a number of one-person and group shows; curator of exhibitions on photography for PhotoForum and the National Art Gallery; currently living in Wellington and employed by TVNZ as a researcher.

"The portfolio takes the form of a dialogue on the relation between the authoritative law of the word and the experiences of people's lives. It begins with the hierarchical structures of a patriarchal European system introduced to Aotearoa in 1840 by the Treaty of Waitangi, and narrows to my personal response to the law as a woman."



– PETER BLACK

Born Christchurch 1948 and educated at Wellington Polytechnic (photographic technicians course); freelance photographer for the NZ Listener, Historic Places Trust and QEII Arts Council; awarded an Arts Council grant in 1982; subject of an exhibition organised by the National Art Gallery; represented in other one-person and group shows; currently living in Wellington and working full-time on his photography.



– ADRIENNE MARTYN

Born in Wellington in 1950 and educated at Otago School of Fine Art; exhibited widely in one-person and group exhibitions; currently photographing artists for National Art Gallery; portraits subject of a touring exhibition organised by the Dunedin Public Art Gallery; currently living in Auckland.

"I wanted to have a closer look at the lawyer in his or her practice. I believe professional environments reflect the personal values of individuals. I wanted to show this aspect of law."

THE EXHIBITION

Laurence Aberhart

1. Law Offices, Wanganui
2. Files, Wanganui
3. a. District Court, Wairoa
b. District Court, Taihape
c. District Court, Te Kuiti
4. High Court at Napier
5. Holding Cell, High Court at Napier
6. Interior: Courtroom, High Court at Napier
7. Interior: Detail of Ceiling, High Court at Napier.
8. Interior: District Court, Masterton
9. a. Interior: District Court, Waihi
b. Interior: District Court, Opotiki
c. Interior: District Court, Taihape
d. Interior: District Court, Te Kuiti
10. District Court, Feilding

Janet Bayly

1. The law of the word
2. Te tiriti o Waitangi
3. The law instituted
4. The judge, the accused
5. Guilty!
6. "For You Alone to Decide"
7. We make our own ~~prisons~~ laws too
8. Do not understate your case

Peter Black

Untitled. Five triptychs and one single work.

Adrienne Martyn

- Auckland Lawyers
1. Denese Henare, law firm partner, in her Queen St office
 2. Keith Langton, sole practitioner, in his Ponsonby law office
 3. Bronwyn Davies, corporate law firm solicitor, in her downtown office
 4. John Geddes, local solicitor, in his Princes St interview room
 5. Paul Burrowes, staff solicitor, in the foyer of his firm's law library
 6. Michael Littlewood, neighbourhood law office lawyer, in his office
 7. Wendall Archibald, community centre solicitor, in his Grey Lynn office
 8. Clive Edwards, Karangahape Rd lawyer, in his waiting room