Photographer Bex Charteris captured the images of 100 people of different ages, ethnicities and ages.
SUPPLIED/BEX CHARTERIS

New Zealand as 100 people

HANNAH ROSS

A new exhibition portrays New Zealand as a village of 100 people.

The Auckland exhibition uses 100 different photographs of people to visually depict the population of New Zealand according to age, gender, and ethnicity.

West Auckland photographer Bex Charteris captured seven Pacific Islanders, 11 Asian, 14 Maori and 70 New Zealand Europeans among the images.

There were 51 female and 49 male participants, based on data from a Statistics NZ infographic released in 2013.

The portrait subjects were New Zealand citizens or residents.

The people photographed were a range of ethnicities including French, Canadian, Japanese and Tongan, she said.

Charteris worked on the project over two years, setting up mini photoshoots in public libraries.

Charteris said she took photos of people "from identical twins, to a Māori with a full face moko, to a homeless man, to a beautiful teenager wearing a hijab headscarf".

After several hundred photographs were taken, Charteris whittled it down to 100 that matched the statistics as accurately as possible.

She said the project opened her eyes to the variety of people who call New Zealand home.

"We're a small country, but a beautiful one, full of beautiful and interesting people," Charteris said.

"Diversity brings lots of benefits," she said.

"We learn different ways of seeing things, different foods, different languages, different ideas."

If people viewed the photographs and appreciated the diversity of New Zealand it would be a great outcome, she said.

The photographs will be exhibited as a part of the Auckland Festival of Photography. The Auckland exhibition will be shown simultaneously at Auckland Central Library, Massey Library and Ōtāhuhu Library from May 31 to June 22.

Diversity of New Zealand

Hine's portrait was chosen from hundreds of photographs taken by Bex Charteris for the exhibition.