

Silos of 'Identity' connect in 2017 Auckland Festival of Photography (1-24 June)

The international calibre of AFP 2017 is evident in Identity-themed exhibitions featuring some of the world's best photojournalism. These include a series, curated by Bangladeshi artist, activist and photographer Shahidul Alam, that opens at Silo 6 on June 1, the launch of this year's festival.

Artists with work featured include J.D. Okhai Ojeikere (from Nigeria), Kim Hak (Cambodia) Dina Goldstein (Canada), Shahria Sharmin (Bangladesh), Çağdaş Erdoğan (Turkey) and Pushpamala N (India). "Far too often, we take refuge in comfortable spaces," Dr Alam says. "These are artists who have dared to think differently. While each body of work does deal with who we are, how we perceive ourselves, and how others perceive us, that approach has merely been a launch pad for more probing questions. One artist objects to her work being labelled as being about identity. Being situated in a silo is pertinent to the theme. It is the silos in our mind we need to deal with."

June 1 also sees new work by Janet Lilo revealed for the Annual Commission by Baker+Douglas. Other festival highlights include Talking Culture events and Satellite exhibitions throughout the region and AFP's 'people's competition' shot over 24hours in Nikon Auckland Photo Day on June 10.

"The Auckland Festival of Photography is in its 14th year and our commitment to sharing great photography with our audience is undimmed," says Julia Durkin. "Photography is something everyone can relate to and take part in as a creative and personal means of expression. This can be seen through the incredible support by New Zealand photographers across the entire programme, from the leading artists such as the recently passed icon Marti Friedlander, Laurence Aberhart, Mark Adams, to the emerging stars of Maori + Pacific photography, with Grant Apiata, Russ Flatt, Tanu Gago, Terry Koloamatangi Klavenes, Emily Mafile'o, Natalie Robertson, Raymond Sagapolutele, Sililga Setoga, Pati Solomona Tyrell, Tuafale Tanoa'i aka Linda T in *Ata Te Tangata* and the all-female historic exhibition, *Real Pictures* with Sue Gee, Megan Jenkinson, Marie Shannon, Deborah Smith and Jenny Tomlin.

"AFP is leading with innovative ways to offer acknowledgement and reward to the artists and photographers in New Zealand," Julia Durkin says. "We will shortly announce the winner for a new AFP award, 'The Spirit of Motion' by Mazda – offered for entry to any New Zealand photographer exhibiting in this year's AFP."

"AFP is a significant photographic event in the Southern Hemisphere and the New Zealand winter calendar," Julia Durkin says. "We're confident Aucklanders will again engage with the largest free visual arts festival in the region, to see innovative and important work, and engage in the most accessible art form of our times."

For more information and interview opportunities, please contact:
Victor van Wetering, Auckland Festival of Photography, (09) 849 6565.

Full details of AFP 2017 are available at <http://www.photographyfestival.org.nz/programme/index.cfm>

NZ interview prospects for AFP 2017

Janet Lilo - 2017's recipient of the *Annual Commission* by Baker+Douglas - documents as a social tool for recording time, people and popular culture. <https://janetliloart.com/>

Russ Flatt - whose work is included in *Ata Te Tangata* (Studio One Toi Tu, 25 May-15 June) – a survey of photographers of Maori and Pacific heritage. Russ was AFP's 2016 Annual Commission recipient and in China when *Ata Te Tangata* debuted the Pingyao International Photography Festival.

Deborah Smith - whose work is included in *Real Pictures: Imaging XX* (June 2-30), a Gus Fisher Gallery exhibition demonstrating the role Real Pictures played for women photographers.

Chris Corson-Scott's images of the remnants of industrial behemoths in the South Island feature in *Dreaming in the Anthropocene* (Trish Clark Gallery, June 13-July 28).

Alison Davie, director of *Crazy Happy*, a documentary about a group with mental health issues who embark on a 100-day photographic journey to find happiness. (Central Library, 2pm, June 17, 2pm). *Crazy Happy* has been sold in five countries and screened in Whangarei, Toronto and Los Angeles.

Wendy Brandon, whose planned photobook *The Rememberance Project* revisits her hometown of Kawerau. Wendy is involved in in June 2's Photobook Friday at the Auckland Art Gallery Auditorium.

International interview prospects for AFP 2017

Shahidul Alam - guest international curator of the *Identity* series at Silo 6 (June 1-20) – in Auckland (31 May-3 June) and speaking at the Auckland Art Gallery Auditorium on 3 June.

Ingetje Tadros, in Auckland June 1-5, whose exhibition *This is my Country* (Studio One Toi Tu, June 1-15) documents the complexities of race and culture of Australia's indigenous people.

Mayumi Suzuki, in Auckland 31 May to 7 June, is a Japanese photographer and guest participant in Identity + Photography (3 June, 3-4pm) and Portfiolo Reviews (5 June, 11-2pm).

James Dooley, from the Alexia Foundation, is in Auckland from June 1-6. Photojournalism projects supported by the foundation can be seen at the Central Library (May 29-7 June) and James speaks on June 3 & 4, and takes part in Portfiolo Reviews on 5 June.

Scott A Woodward - in Auckland June 3-7 – whose images of North Korea feature in *All the World's a stage* at Studio One Toi Tu, June 1-15. Scott speaks on 4 June (1-2pm) and takes part in Portfiolo Reviews on 5 June.

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Full details of AFP 2017 are available at

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Auckland Festival of Photography 2017 Funding partners:

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