

## BEN CAUCHI

For the past decade Ben Cauchi has engaged in a practice examining the nature of photography, the passage of time, and the psychological dimensions of viewing. His work is made using the very earliest photographic techniques; the wet-collodion photographic process, producing ambrotypes and tintypes; one-off positives on glass or metal. It is a process invented at a time of pioneering discovery in the worlds of science, industry and reason, yet also a time when spiritualism and mesmerism held the public imagination. This dichotomy is at the centre of Cauchi's work; he stages scenarios in the studio and, using the photographic process itself, investigates the space between the empirical and the incorporeal.

As writer and critic Gregory O'Brien has said: Cauchi "has not only mastered long outmoded photographic techniques but he has revitalised those traditional ways of making and seeing within the context of contemporary photography and the present day world. Beyond their mystery and occasional sense of menace, his immensely refined images are also repositories for lyricism and, at times, a dark but nonetheless exquisite beauty."

Cauchi was awarded the Creative New Zealand Visual Arts Residency at the Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin (2012) and The Arts Foundation of New Zealand New Generation Award (2011). His work is held in public collections internationally including the National Gallery of Australia and the Art Gallery of New South Wales.

### Biography

1974	Born in Auckland, New Zealand.
1993-1997	Victoria University, Wellington, New Zealand
1999 - 2000	Massey University, Wellington, New Zealand

Lives and works in Berlin, Germany.

### Solo Exhibitions

2019	<i>Eidolas</i> , Darren Knight Gallery, Sydney, Australia
2018	<i>Canto</i> , Robert Heald Gallery, Wellington, New Zealand
2017	<i>As above, so below</i> , Yossi Milo Gallery, New York, NY, USA <i>Aether</i> , Peter McLeavey Gallery, Wellington, New Zealand
2016	<i>The Waters of Lethe</i> , Brett McDowell Gallery, Dunedin, New Zealand <i>Sea of Vapours</i> , Darren Knight Gallery, Sydney, Australia
2015	<i>Echo Chamber</i> , Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh, UK
2014	<i>One's Own Grey</i> , Darren Knight Gallery, Sydney, Australia
2013	<i>Der Dünne Schleier</i> , Peter McLeavey Gallery, Wellington, New Zealand <i>One's Own Grey</i> , Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin, Germany
2012	<i>The Sophist's Mirror</i> , City Gallery, Wellington, New Zealand <i>Hypnagogia</i> , McNamara Gallery: Photography, Whanganui, New Zealand <i>Ilminster (a tale in ten parts)</i> , Darren Knight Gallery, Sydney, Australia <i>The Lunar Apogee</i> , Lopdell House, Auckland, New Zealand

- 2011 *An Alternative History*, Brett McDowell Gallery, Dunedin, New Zealand
- 2010 *The Doppler Effect*, McNamara Gallery: Photography, Whanganui, New Zealand  
*The Claim*, Darren Knight Gallery, Sydney, Australia
- 2009 *The Dark Chamber*, Brett McDowell Gallery, Dunedin, New Zealand  
*Epilogue*, McNamara Gallery: Photography, Whanganui, New Zealand
- 2008 *Lull*, Sarjeant Gallery, Whanganui, New Zealand  
*Borderland*, Brett McDowell Gallery, Dunedin, New Zealand  
*Dead Time*, Hocken Gallery, Dunedin & Christchurch Art Gallery, Christchurch, New Zealand
- 2007 *The Day Before Yesterday*, Forrester Gallery, Oamaru, New Zealand  
*Still*, Brett McDowell Gallery, Dunedin, New Zealand
- 2006 *The Hermetic Seal*, Ray Hughes Gallery, Sydney, Australia  
*Last Days*, McNamara Gallery: Photography, Whanganui, New Zealand  
*The Long Horror of that Piteous Night*, Marshall Seifert Gallery, Dunedin, New Zealand
- 2005 *Smoke and Mirrors*, Aratoi Art and History Museum, Masterton & Te Manawa, Palmerston North, New Zealand  
*In a Smoke-filled Room*, McNamara Gallery: Photography, Whanganui, New Zealand  
*The Sweet Smell of Ether*, Marshall Seifert Gallery, Dunedin, New Zealand
- 2004 *Ghosting*, Christopher Moore Gallery, Wellington, New Zealand  
*The Book of Hours*, Christopher Moore Gallery, Wellington, New Zealand
- 2003 *And a Great Cloud Came Down*, Christopher Moore Gallery, Wellington, New Zealand  
*Scenes from the Quiet Room*, Christopher Moore Gallery, Wellington, New Zealand  
*New Ambrotypes & Building the Empire*, McNamara Gallery: Photography, Whanganui, New Zealand
- 2002 *Predictions, Premonitions and Other White Lies*, Christopher Moore Gallery, Wellington, New Zealand  
*Building the Empire*, Photospace, Wellington, New Zealand  
*Through a Glass Darkly*, Christopher Moore Gallery, Wellington, New Zealand

### **Group Exhibitions**

- 2021 *Reconfigured/Rediscovered*, Town Hall Gallery, Hawthorn, Australia
- 2020 *The Unseen Masterpiece* (online), Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh, UK  
*Shadow Catchers*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia
- 2019 *The Room*, Objectspace, Auckland, NZ  
*Painting with Light*, Yossi Milo Gallery, New York, US
- 2018 *TWENTY*, Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh, UK  
*Jacob's Ladder*, Ingleby, Edinburgh, UK  
*Strangers*, Dunedin Public Art Gallery, Dunedin, NZ  
*Runes: photography and decipherment*, Centre for Contemporary Photography, Melbourne, AU
- 2017 *Dark Room*, Yossi Milo Gallery, New York, USA  
*Untitled*, Miami, USA (Yossi Milo Gallery)  
*Paris Photo: Garry Fabian Miller & Ben Cauchi*, Paris, FR (Ingleby Gallery)  
*Home Sweet Home*, Peter McLeavey Gallery, Wellington, New Zealand

*and per se and, part v & part vi*, Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh, UK  
*The Armory Show*, New York, USA (Yossi Milo Gallery)  
*The Frances Hodgkins Fellowship at the Forrester*, Forrester Gallery, Oamaru, New Zealand

- 2016  
*Paris Photo*, Paris, FR (Ingleby Gallery)  
*Undreamed of... 50 Years of the Frances Hodgkins Fellowship*, Hocken Gallery and Dunedin Public Art Gallery, Dunedin, New Zealand  
*Ruminations in the Cloisters: talking about photography*, Old Bank Space, New Plymouth, New Zealand  
*Personal Messages*, Peter McLeavey Gallery, Wellington, New Zealand  
*The Armory Show*, New York, USA (Ingleby Gallery)
- 2015  
*Nga Toi / Arts Te Papa*, Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington, New Zealand  
*The Alchemists: rediscovering photography in the age of the jpeg*, Australian Centre for Photography, Sydney, Australia  
*Showcase*, Maerzgalerie, Leipzig, Germany  
*Carbon Content*, Kreuzberg Pavilion, Berlin, Germany
- 2014  
*The Social Life of Things*, Auckland Art Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand  
*The Dreamer is Still Asleep*, Strange Neighbour, Melbourne, Australia  
*Back to Black: the landscape of unease in Aotearoa*, Whangarei Art Museum, Whangarei, New Zealand  
*Flora Photographica Aotearoa*, Bowen House, Wellington, New Zealand
- 2013  
*Presence and Absence*, Wollongong Art Gallery, Wollongong, Australia  
*Seasoned: contemporary salt prints*, McNamara Gallery: Photography, Whanganui, New Zealand  
*Joy Before the Object*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia  
*Available Light: imagining more than we see*, McNamara Gallery: Photography, Whanganui, New Zealand  
*Burqas, Veils & Hoodies: identity and representation*, Walker Street Gallery, Dandenong, Australia  
*Ghosting Machine*, Delmar Gallery, Sydney, Australia  
*Redemptive Glimpses from the Future World*, Musterzimmer, Berlin, Germany
- 2012  
*Garden of Earthly Delights*, Stills Gallery, Sydney, Australia  
*Natural World*, Mahara Gallery, Waikanae, New Zealand  
*Contemporary New Zealand Photography*, Gow Langsford Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand  
*Cruel & Tender*, Tim Melville Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand  
*Now & Then: enduring and developing themes in contemporary New Zealand photography*, Te Manawa, Palmerston North, New Zealand  
*It's All Make Believe*, Two Rooms, Auckland, New Zealand
- 2011  
*What's in a Face? Aspects of portrait photography*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia  
*Collecting Contemporary*, Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington, New Zealand  
*Under the Willow*, Flinders Street Gallery, Sydney, Australia  
*Old School New School: an art and design history of New Zealand*, Massey University, Wellington, New Zealand  
*All Black*, Tauranga Art Gallery, Tauranga, New Zealand  
*Bad Angle*, Stills Gallery, Sydney, Australia  
*Ore Struck: the use of gold in contemporary art and photography*, Hocken Gallery, Dunedin, New Zealand  
*Major photographs*, TSB Bank Wallace Arts Centre, Auckland, New Zealand
- 2010  
*Txt: the written word in New Zealand art*, Te Manawa, Palmerston North, New Zealand  
*Light-Sensitive: the use of alternative photographic technologies in contemporary New Zealand art*, Blue Oyster Gallery, Dunedin, New Zealand
- 2009  
*Light: black and silver*, Mahara Gallery, Waikanae, New Zealand  
*Beloved: works from the Dunedin Public Art Gallery*, Dunedin Public Art Gallery, Dunedin, New Zealand

*Darren Knight Gallery in Melbourne*, Rickard St, Brunswick, Melbourne, Australia  
*Kind of Blue: new acquisitions and loans*, Dunedin Public Art Gallery, Dunedin, New Zealand  
*Surface Tension*, Sarjeant Gallery, Whanganui, New Zealand  
*Fixated: photography through history*, Puke Ariki, New Plymouth, New Zealand  
*Recent: work by 10 New Zealand photographers*, Tauranga Art Gallery, Tauranga, New Zealand  
*Thrill Me Every Day: the Celia Dunlop collection*, The New Dowse, Lower Hutt, New Zealand

- 2008  
*Wunderbox*, Christchurch Art Gallery, Christchurch, New Zealand  
*Intersection of Collections*, 21 Carrington Ave, Mosman, Sydney, Australia  
*Real Art Roadshow*, Mahara Gallery, Waikanae, New Zealand  
*New Victorians*, University Art Gallery, University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia  
*Contemporary New Zealand Photography*, John Leech Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand  
*Close-up: contemporary contact prints*, Gus Fisher Gallery, Auckland & Ramp Gallery, Hamilton, New Zealand  
*Sitting Room: a portrait show*, John Leech Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand
- 2007  
*Likeness and Character: portraits from the Auckland Art Gallery*, Auckland Art Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand  
*Tools of Survival: contemporary photographers using 19th century processes*, McNamara Gallery: Photography, Whanganui, New Zealand  
*Tylee Cottage: 21 years*, Sarjeant Gallery, Whanganui, New Zealand  
*At Home: an exhibition of images of hands*, 18 Morphett Street, Dickson, Canberra, Australia  
*Collecting Photographers*, New Zealand Centre of Photography, Shed 11, Wellington, New Zealand  
*Pakeha Now!*, The Suter, Nelson, New Zealand  
*Collect: new acquisitions*, Christchurch Art Gallery, Christchurch, New Zealand  
*Moving Still*, Gus Fisher Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand  
*Four by Ten*, Hocken Gallery, Dunedin, New Zealand
- 2006  
*Tall Tales and History Lessons: contemporary New Zealand art from the 19th century*, Dunedin Public Art Gallery, Dunedin, New Zealand  
*Break: Construct*, Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth, New Zealand  
*Recent Acquisitions*, Te Manawa, Palmerston North, New Zealand  
*Prologue: the Matthew Couper and Jo Russ collection*, Sarjeant Gallery, Whanganui, New Zealand  
*Hei Tiki*, Pataka, Porirua, New Zealand
- 2005  
*Contemporary New Zealand Photographers*, Starkwhite, Auckland; Pataka, Porirua & Sarjeant Gallery, Whanganui, New Zealand  
*Commodity & Delight: views of home*, Sarjeant Gallery, Whanganui, New Zealand  
*Return of the Hand*, Sarjeant Gallery, Whanganui, New Zealand  
*Wallace Art Awards*, Wallace Arts Trust Gallery, Auckland; and CoCA, Christchurch, New Zealand  
*Verbatim*, Lopdell House, Titirangi & National Library Gallery, Wellington, New Zealand  
*Flag Works*, Pataka, Porirua, New Zealand  
*Photo-London*, Royal Academy of Art, London, UK
- 2004  
*Fresh Brew*, Mahara Gallery, Waikanae, New Zealand
- 2003  
*Home Sweet Home: works from the Peter Fay collection*, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, Australia  
*Wallace Art Awards*, Wallace Arts Trust Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand  
*Set Up*, Michael Hirschfeld Gallery, City Gallery, Wellington, New Zealand
- 2002  
*Victory Over Death*, Peter McLeavey Gallery, Wellington, New Zealand  
*The Scale of Things*, Mahara Gallery, Waikanae, New Zealand
- 2001  
*Old Gates New Journeys*, Michael Hirschfeld Gallery, City Gallery, Wellington, New Zealand

#### **Awards and Residencies**

- 2012  
Creative New Zealand Visual Arts Residency at the Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin, DE

- 2011 The Arts Foundation of New Zealand New Generation Award  
McCahon House Artists' Residency, French Bay, Auckland, New Zealand  
Artist in residence, Rita Angus Cottage, Wellington, New Zealand
- 2007 Frances Hodgkins Fellow, University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand
- 2005 Artist in residence, Tylee Cottage, Whanganui, New Zealand

### **Public Collections**

Aratoi Art and History Museum  
Art Gallery of New South Wales  
Auckland Art Gallery  
Chartwell Collection  
Christchurch Art Gallery  
Dunedin Public Art Gallery  
Forrester Gallery  
Govett-Brewster Art Gallery  
Hocken Collection  
James Wallace Art Trust  
Massey University  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa  
National Gallery of Australia  
Real Art Roadshow Trust  
Sarjeant Gallery  
Te Manawa  
University of Wollongong  
Wellington Civic Art Collection

### **Selected Publications**

- 2014 *Passage*, with essay by Matthias Harder (Künstlerhaus Bethanien)
- 2013 *The Evening Hours*, with essays by Glenn Barkley, Geoffrey Batchen and Aaron Lister (Wellington: Victoria University Press)
- 2009 *The Dark Chamber* (Dunedin: Brett McDowell Gallery)
- 2008 *Lull*, with essay by Greg Donson (Whanganui: Sarjeant Gallery)  
*Dead Time*, with essay by Natalie Poland (Dunedin: Hocken Gallery)
- 2006 *Last Days* (Whanganui: McNamara Gallery)
- 2005 *Smoke & Mirrors*, with essay by Aaron Lister (Masterton: Aratoi)  
*In A Smoke-Filled Room* (Whanganui: McNamara Gallery)