

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

2021 *Metaphysica*, Robert Head Gallery, Wellington

2019 *Eidolas*, Darren Knight Gallery, Sydney

2018 *Canto*, Robert Heald Gallery, Wellington, NZ

2017 *As above, so below*, Yossi Milo Gallery, New York, NY, USA
Aether, Peter McLeavey Gallery, Wellington, New Zealand

2016 *The Waters of Lethe*, Brett McDowell Gallery, Dunedin, New Zealand
Sea of Vapours, Darren Knight Gallery, Sydney, Australis

2015 *Echo Chamber*, Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh, UK

2014 *One's Own Grey*, Darren Knight Gallery, Sydney, Australia

2013 *Der Dünne Schleier*, Peter McLeavey Gallery, Wellington, New Zealand
One's Own Grey, Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin, Germany

2012 *The Sophist's Mirror*, City Gallery, Wellington, New Zealand
Hypnagogia, McNamara Gallery: Photography, Whanganui, New Zealand

- Ilminster (a tale in ten parts)*, Darren Knight Gallery, Sydney, Australia
The Lunar Apogee, 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

- 2024 *In the Night*, Saudia Arabia Museum of Contemporary Art, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
- 2023 *Twenty-Five*, Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh, UK
- 2021 *Reconfigured/Rediscovered*, Town Hall Gallery, Boroondara Arts, Melbourne
- 2020 *Shadow Catchers*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
- 2019 *Fundamentals*, Black Box Projects, London
Now, Then, Next: Time and the Contemporary, Christchurch Art Gallery, Christchurch, New Zealand
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)