

Fiona Clark

**Michael Lett
312 Karangahape Road
Cnr K Rd & East St
PO Box 68287 Newton
Auckland 1145
New Zealand
P+ 64 9 309 7848
contact@michaellett.com
www.michaellett.com**

Fiona Clark

Born in 1954, Inglewood, Taranaki, New Zealand
Lives and works in Tikorangi, Taranaki, New Zealand

Fiona Clark was born in Inglewood, Taranaki, in 1959, a rural background which formed the basis for her hands-on approach and direct attitude towards artistic practice, attributes which have aided her in the production of an expansive body of photographic work.

While studying at the Elam School of Fine Arts between 1972-5, Clark began to develop a performance-based practice, before moving into photography in her final year. Performativity and the politics of identity would prove to be concepts which informed Clark's later work, and these interests indirectly led her to document Auckland's drag and transsexual community. These works provided the methodology for much of Clark's later practice, especially in their emphasis on a collaborative approach and a sense of responsibility towards the images' subjects, as seen in the then-controversial Dance Party series, which was subjected to censorship after being included in the Auckland Art Gallery's 1977 group show *The Active Eye*.

After returning to Taranaki, Clark embarked on a number of artistic projects encompassing a wide variety of subject matter: Maori fishing rights, body building, HIV-Aids and lesbian cultural histories. Recently, the shows *Go Girl* (2002-6) and *For Fantastic Carmen* (2016) represent a continuation of the documentary project which began with the Dance Party series, and which now spans four decades.

Clark lives and works in Tikorangi, just south of the coastal town of Waitara. Her body of work represents an important social document of how New Zealanders perceive themselves and each other, and the way these identities are constructed and maintained.

EDUCATION

1975
Graduated at Elam School of Fine Arts

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

2016
SIART Biennale, Museo Nacional de Arte, La Paz, Bolivia (group)
Niccole Duval, Michael Lett, Auckland (solo)
For Fantastic Carmen, Artspace, Auckland (solo)

2015
Wunderrūma, Auckland Art Gallery, Auckland (group)
Re-Reading the Rainbow, RM, Auckland (group)
Group Exhibition, Michael Lett, Auckland (group)
Our Hearts of Darkness, Govett Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth (group)
Implicated and Immune, Michael Lett, Auckland (group)

2012
Now and Then, Te Manawa Art Gallery, Palmerston North (solo)

2011
Bloom, The Dowse, Lower Hutt (solo)

2010
Kin, New Zealand Portrait Gallery, Wellington
Tickle my Senses, Waikato Museum, Hamilton

2006
GO GIRL, Dunedin Public Art Gallery, Dunedin (solo)

2005
GO GIRL, Southland Museum and Art Gallery, Invercargill (solo)
GO GIRL, Whangarei Art Museum, Whangarei (solo)

2003
GO GIRL, Whakatane Art Gallery, Whakatane (solo)

GO GIRL, Mori Gallery, Sydney, Australia (solo)

2002

GO GIRL, Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth (solo)

2001

Club 47, Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth (solo)

1997

Final Days of Club 47, Escalante Gallery, Auckland (solo)

1996

The Face of Law, commissioned by the Taranaki Law Society, Govett Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth (solo)

1989

Living with AIDS, Dowse Art Museum, Lower Hutt and ARX, Perth, Australia (solo)

1987

Necessary Protection, Exposure Gallery, Wellington, Artspace, Auckland, Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth, Sarjeant Gallery, Wanganui (solo)

1986

He Taura Tangata, binding people and places together, Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth (solo)

Frauen photorafieren Frauen, Munchen Volkshochshule, Germany (group)

The Trained Eye, National Art Gallery, Wellington (group)

1985

Women view Women, Real pictures, Auckland. Toured to Robert McDougall Art Gallery, Christchurch, Govett Brewster Art Gallery; National Art Gallery, Wellington; Dunedin Public Art Gallery; Sarjeant Gallery, Wanganui (group)

1982

Body Building, 40 colour photographs, Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth, Dowse Art Museum, Wellington (solo)

1979

Fiona Clark, Tikorangi Factory Gallery, Taranaki (solo)

2009

R.S.V.P. (with Lynne Johnson), Balclutha Art Centre & South Otago Museum, Balclutha

AM I Scared, Boy EH, Govett Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth

2008

Taranaki Whenua Life-Blood-Legacy, Pukeariki, New Plymouth

Taranaki Gate, Percy Thomson Gallery, Stratford

2007

Wai - water. Percy Thomson Gallery, Stratford

Aotearoa Taonga-tuku-iho

2006

Viewfinder, Govett Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth

2005

Solstice, Matakana Pictures, Matakana

From mini-FM to hacktivists: a guide to art and activism, Govett Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth

2004

Parihaka – the Struggle for Peace, Pukeariki, New Plymouth

Lights>camera>action, Govett Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth

2003

Locals Only; checking out the Neighbourhood, Govett Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth

2002

In the pursuit of Beauty and Perfection, McNamara Gallery, Wanganui

2001

Te Maunga Taranaki: views of a mountain, Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth

1998

Leap of Faith: Contemporary New Zealand Art Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth

1994

One Hundred and Fifty Ways of Loving, Artspace, Auckland

1992

Implicated and Immune: Artists' responses to AIDS, Fisher Gallery, Auckland

Whatu Aho Rua, Sarjeant Gallery, Wanganui

1991

Art and Organised Labour, Wellington City Art Gallery, Wellington

1990

Histories: Seams of a Culture, National Library Gallery, Wellington

1989

Constructed Intimacies, Moet et Chandon New Zealand Art Award, Sarjeant Gallery, Wanganui. Toured to Robert McDougall Art Annex, Christchurch, National Art Gallery, Wellington: Auckland City Art Gallery

1988

Rear Vision; A History of PhotoForum, Wellington City Art Gallery, Wellington

Turnbull Library Post Office Project, Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington

1987

When Art Hits The Headlines: A Survey of Controversial Art in New Zealand, Shed 11, National Art Gallery, Wellington (group)

1982

Views/Exposures; Ten contemporary New Zealand photographers, National Art Gallery, Wellington (group)

1981

Parihaka, Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth (group)

1980

Illusions, Fantasies, and Lies, PhotoForum Gallery, Wellington (group)

1979

Three New Zealand photographers: Fiona Clark, Laurence Aberhart, Peter Peryer, Auckland Art Gallery, Auckland. Toured to National Art Gallery, Wellington; Govett-Brewster Art Gallery; Manawatu Art Gallery, Palmerston North; Sarjeant Gallery, Wanganui; Waikato Art Museum, Hamilton; Gisborne Art Gallery and Museum; Rotorua Art Gallery; Wairarapa Arts Centre, Masterton; Bishop Suter Art Gallery, Nelson (group)

Women by Women, Snaps Gallery, Auckland (group)

1977

The Active Eye; Contemporary New Zealand Photography, Manawatu Art Gallery, Palmerston North. Toured to Govett-Brewster Art Gallery; Waikato Art Museum, Hamilton; McDougall Art Gallery, Christchurch; Sarjeant Gallery, Wanganui; Aigantighe Gallery, Timaru; Anderson Park Art Gallery, Invercargill; Dunedin Public Art Gallery; Wairarapa Arts Centre, Masterton; Auckland City Art Gallery; Hawkes Bay Art Gallery and Museum, Napier; Dowse Art Museum, Lower Hutt (group)

1975

Five Taranaki Photographers, Clearwater Gallery, New Plymouth (group)

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

2015

Michelle Grabner, "Implicated and Immune," ArtForum, February 2015.

Wendy Syfret, "Fiona Clark's photos of New Zealand's LGBT culture were unseen for 30 years," i-D Vice Magazine

2008
Tom Hutchins, "Three New Zealand Photographers: Fiona Clark, Laurence Aberhart, Peter Peryer," Art New Zealand #126

2005
Parkihaka: The Art of Passive Resistance, City Gallery Wellington, Wellington

2002
Gregory Burke, "Go girl," Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth

2003
Peter Wells, "Incandescent Moment, Fiona Clark's GO Girl", Art New Zealand #106
Te Maunga Taranaki; views of a mountain, Govett-Brewster Art Gallery

2001
Bridie Lonie, "Genes and archives: Fiona Clark mines the unimaginable" Art New Zealand #95

2000
Parihaka; the art of passive resistance Victoria University Press with Parihaka Pa Trustees
David Brown, "Breathing space; Club 47 photographed by Fiona Clark," Art New Zealand #80
Leon Narbey, Trevor Haysom Visible evidence; eight documentary photographers, (video) Trevor Haysom

1996
One hundred and fifty ways of loving, Artspace, Auckland

1994
Anne Kirker, New Zealand women artists; a survey of 150 years Craftsman House William Main,
John B Turner, New Zealand photography from the 1840's to the present, PhotoForum, Auckland

1993
Bridie Lonie, "Fiona Clark: Images of the Land and People" Art New Zealand #53
Putting the Land On the Map; Art and Cartography in New Zealand since 1840, Govett-Brewster Art Gallery

1989
Gregory Burke, Athol McCredie, "Rear vision; a History of PhotoForum Wellington to 1988," Wellington City Art Gallery

1988
Peter Aagard, "Fiona Clark; Necessary protection," PhotoForum #35
A women's picture book; 25 artists of Aotearoa New Zealand Wellington, GP Books
Jim and Mary Barr, "When art hits the headlines; a survey of controversial art in New Zealand," National Art Gallery,
Wellington

1987
Stacey Gwen, "Women view women; photographs by Fiona Clark, Gill Hanly, Ans Westra, Jane Zusters," Art New Zealand
#38
He Taura Tangata; binding people and places together, Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth

1986
The Trained Eye, National Art Gallery, Wellington
Women View Women, Wellington, Diane Quinn and Real Pictures, Auckland
Nga whaea o te moana Taranaki 1983 (calendar) Fiona Clark
Views/Exposures; Ten Contemporary New Zealand Photographers, National Art Gallery, Wellington

1985
Parihaka Centennial Exhibition Catalogue, Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth

1982
Three New Zealand photographers; Fiona Clark, Laurence Aberhart, Peter Peryer, Auckland City Art Gallery, Auckland
The Active Eye; Contemporary New Zealand Photography, Manawatu Art Gallery, Palmerston North