

Artspace Aotearoa

Ex-post

4 March - 14 May 2022

EX-POST

Design by Extended Whānau.

***Ex-post* with Fiona Amundsen, Susan Schuppli, and Chia-Wei Hsu**

Ex-post is the follow up and conclusion of *Ex-ante*, an exhibition that took place in November 2017, the first exhibition curated by Remco de Blaaij at Artspace Aotearoa.

In *Ex-post*, three artists show cinematic and moving image works that help us think through both the emerging of new histories and imagine future potential. Documenting, speculating and registering are all tools to negotiate the future. The works look like they are driven by facts, data and scientific reality, but in fact, the star of the show is formed by imagination. All the three artists are linked by their focus on specific geographies in the world, specialist and sometimes fashionable equipment and their interrogation of political consequences.

Drawing from different eras and areas, what surfaces in the works are arguments to look differently at our histories, and listen to them more carefully before we conclude what's coming next.

'Ex-post', as well 'ex-ante', are both terms used in global financial business in which one is predicting before events ('ex-ante') and predicting outcomes of those events ('ex-post'). Both however are fairly imaginative and incomplete, as even in an 'ex-post' reality one would have many facts available (because the events have now happened) but one is still speculating.

When imagining a new international landscape from any professional or personal viewpoint, we can be assured that much of the world has generated tools that can help re-navigating it, not the least because of an ongoing pandemic for the last two years. We have witnessed a resurgence of controversial world leaders, together with the rise of climate awareness (not to be confused with acting on it) and the emergence of global disconnectedness as air travel came to a grinding halt.

Now, this moment in time needs a promising horizon that can 'build back better', or even a radical shift in the systems that have got us here in the first place. Before we do that however, *Ex-post* argues that we (re)connect to recent specific histories through the eyes of three diverse artists.

Artspace Aotearoa is generously supported by our core funders: Creative New Zealand, Foundation North and Auckland Council.



About the Artists

Fiona Amundsen's practice explores how documentary photographic and filmic images can enable a connected, active and caring relationship to the ramifications of painful historical experiences that live on in the present. She is interested in establishing relationships between specific historical events, the social responsibility of witnessing, and the ethics of documentary photographic and filmic practices. She edits declassified military produced archival imagery with her own present-day photography and filming to investigate the potential for imagery to perform a kind of visual listening and documentary witnessing of acts of colonial imperial violence, be it historical or not. Her images enable an ethical caring based in relationships of imagining over reified visibility, and listening over cognitive knowing.

Susan Schuppli is a researcher and artist based in the UK whose work examines material evidence from war and conflict to environmental disasters and climate change. Current work is focused on ice core science and the politics of cold. Schuppli's work as an artist and writer has explored the ways in which non-human witnesses, such as materials and objects, enter into public discourse and testify to historical events, especially those involving political violence, ethnic conflict, and war crimes. Schuppli's work has assumed many different modes of communication from legal analysis and public advocacy to theoretical reflection and creative exploration. Schuppli's current research and artistic production expands these investigations to examine how environmental systems and the transformations brought about by global warming are also generating new forms of evidence; creating, in effect, a planetary archive of material witnesses.

Chia-Wei Hsu graduated from *Le Fresnoy - Studio national des arts contemporains*, France, Chia-Wei Hsu is an artist, filmmaker, and curator whose work merges the language of contemporary art and film unearthing the complex production mechanisms that are behind the process of image-creation. Through his practice, Hsu weaves together connections between humans, materials, and places that have been overlooked or omitted from conventional historical narratives.

About Artspace Aotearoa

Since 1987 Artspace Aotearoa has grown into a modest, lean contemporary institute for supporting visual art with civic intent. Artspace Aotearoa works within a city, nation and world, knitting together stories that interpret, react, and respond to these permeable borders and the ever-changing societies that exist within them. We have built an approach to our programme and organisation that seeks to care, support, and inspire, making exhibitions that both promote New Zealand art and actively engage with voices from elsewhere.

Artspace Aotearoa is proud of its long commitment to and support from an active community of artists, benefactors, writers, performers, academics and many more who have been shaping the reality we live in. By adopting Aotearoa in its name, Artspace Aotearoa is aiming toward a greater part of the collective imaginary, while also embracing the Māori concept of *ka mau ka muri* - *walking back into the future* - as the institute's official name is Artspace Aotearoa Trust.

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Artspace Aotearoa

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Opening hours

Tuesday -Friday 10am – 6pm
Saturdays 11am – 4pm

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