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MARIE SHANNON | Life Stories

12 March–3 May 2026

Press Release



Marie Shannon's solo exhibition, her first in Auckland since 2022, elucidates her importance within contemporary New Zealand art history, bringing together vintage silver gelatin photographs, large digital photographs, and moving image works.

Critically acclaimed since 1996 in representing New Zealand at Australia's Asia-Pacific Triennale, and with works in all major public Collections in Aotearoa New Zealand and Australia's AGNSW, Marie Shannon's meticulous practice was the subject of a major touring survey exhibition in 2018 and following years. Most recently, Shannon is included in Te Papa's newly-opened exhibition, *Slow Burn: Women and Photography Ahi Tāmau: Māreikura Whakaahua*, curated by Lissa Mitchell and accompanied by a book of the same title.

Blurring fact and fiction, Shannon brings her characteristic sharp focus and dry wit to both the quotidian and profound details of domestic life. Her photographs are made on a large-format camera, resulting in sharp, finely detailed images, hand-printed by Shannon in silver gelatin variously toned with sepia, selenium and gold. She often stages or carefully constructs her photographs, or documents the process of making objects that are then photographed. Shannon is also interested in the narrative or poetic resonance of the single object.

Past subjects have included photographs of her son Leo's sketchbook and love notes; oil pastel installation sketches of her show at Sue Crockford Gallery; an embroidered fabric



collage of a Gordon Walters koru painting, and photographs of the plaster cast made as part of the process of her partner's radiation therapy. Following the death of her partner, artist Julian Dashper, in 2009, Shannon catalogued his works and archive in their shared Auckland studio. From this lengthy process she gathered the material for her text-based video works and related photographs. Her desire to use text in a visual, as well as a narrative context, stems from an interest in the conventions of text titles and credits in movies.

Shannon lives and works in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland, Aotearoa New Zealand.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, IMAGES AND QUERIES PLEASE
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