

## GONE HOME – Photographs by Gavin Hipkins and Peter Peryer at Aratoi

Aratoi Wairarapa Museum of Art and History, in partnership with City Gallery Wellington Te Whare Toi, is delighted to present 'Gone Home', an exhibition curated by Robert Leonard and Gavin Hipkins, showcasing photographs by Hipkins and Peter Peryer in a game of visual snap.

Auckland photographer Gavin Hipkins and City Gallery Wellington Chief Curator Robert Leonard will give a free public talk at Aratoi on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March at 11am. The opening is Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March from 5.30pm. All welcome.

“A centrepiece of the exhibition at Aratoi is the 80-photograph frieze *The Homely II* by Gavin Hipkins,” said Aratoi Director Susanna Shadbolt. “Aratoi is honoured to exhibit this body of work, taken over 16 years, from 2001 to 2017. The images are of New Zealand (Hipkins’ home) and the United Kingdom (the homeland).”

Hipkins describes *The Homely II* as a ‘Victorian melodrama’ with things out of place. A key image is *The Homely: Clandon (Hinemihi)*: a 19<sup>th</sup> century Māori meeting house transposed into the English countryside.

At Aratoi, *The Homely II* will be accompanied by a selection of some 50 photographs by Peter Peryer, including such classics as *Self Portrait* (1977), *My Parents* (1979), *Frozen Flame* (1982), *Bluff* (1985), *Dead Steer* (1987), *Trout, Lake Taupo* (1987), and *Home* (1991).

Photographers Hipkins and Peryer belong to different generations. Peryer emerged in the 1970s, worked in analogue, with single images of single subjects, and primarily in black-and-white, while Hipkins spanned the transition into the digital and tends to create installations that feature repetition of imagery.

Yet the similarities between the two artists are significant. Robert Leonard writes that they are both “tourists of photography, taking photos on their travels, while simultaneously touring the history, conventions, and concerns of photography itself, as if it were akin to a landscape.” They choose subjects frequently photographed, “echoing photos and photographers that went before them. Their work has a haunted, déjà vu quality.”

The exhibition continues at Aratoi until 14 June 2020 and takes its title from a Peryer photo of a gravestone inscribed ‘Gone Home’. Peryer died in November 2018.

City Gallery Wellington is touring ‘Gone Home’ in New Zealand and Australia. Before Wairarapa, the show was on display in Auckland (Te Uru) and Christchurch (COCA); after Aratoi, it will travel to Sydney (Centre of Contemporary Art).

**For media enquiries:** Susanna Shadbolt, Aratoi Director, [susanna@aratoi.co.nz](mailto:susanna@aratoi.co.nz), Tel 06 370 0001  
Photographs available on request:

Gavin Hipkins, *The Homely: Milford Sound (Falls)*, 2004, Photograph

Gavin Hipkins, *The Homely: Clandon (Hinemihi)*, 2015, Photograph

Peter Peryer, *Dead Steer*, 1987, Photograph

Peter Peryer, *Home*, 1999, Photograph