

After HANDBOEK: ANS WESTRA PHOTOGRAPHS

Māpuna - Kabinet art gallery, Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, Foxton
23 April - 19 June 2022

Born in 1936 in Leiden, the Netherlands, Anna Jacoba (Ans) Westra came to Aotearoa New Zealand in 1957. In a few short years she was to commence her life-long photographic journey documenting the lives and cultures of New Zealanders during a period of cultural, social, and generational change.

The comfortable conformity of the late 40s and 50s in New Zealand was about to be disturbed by the increasing post-war arrival of European migrants and, more importantly, the urban shift of Māori, which gained momentum in the 1950s. New Zealanders were far from prepared to accommodate the difficulties accompanying those changes to their homogenous cultural, social, and institutional frameworks.

Ans Westra's arrival in Aotearoa New Zealand coincided with that shift and the resultant changes and tensions that have characterised and continue to characterise our social and cultural landscape.

It was a time when Māori and Pākehā had to interact widely for the first time. This did happen on a street level or at such communal events as the Ngāruawāhia regatta, even if middle or upper middle class New Zealand citizens largely ignored and remained protected from such a situation.

It is in this context that Ans's work, particularly her early work, needs to be considered. 60 years on, *Washday at the pa*, one of Westra's many 'photo-stories', still continues to loom large in any discussion of her work, if only to illustrate the fraught territory of the documentary tradition. Perhaps, inadvertently, Ans's work had become a kind of barometer of a changing relationship between Māori and Pākehā. *Washday at the pa* remains a stake in the ground, marking the complexity of race relationships in Aotearoa New Zealand.

The images in this exhibition, selected from BWX's 2004 exhibition and book, *Handboek*, take us through a remarkable photographic journey and allow us all to view or review our own position vis-a-vis the stories that the journey conveys.

Luit Bieringa



After HANDBOEK:
ANS WESTRA PHOTOGRAPHS



{Suite}
Gallery
www.suite.co.nz



Wellington
Railway Station, 1959



Cuba Street,
Wellington, 1960



Waiwhetu Marae,
Lower Hutt, 1960



Anglican Hui,
Masterton, 1961



Hiruharama,
Jerusalem, 1961



Hiruharama,
Jerusalem, 1961



Hiruharama,
Jerusalem, 1961



Turangawaewae Marae,
Ngaruawahia, 1961



Coronation Celebrations,
Turangawaewae Marae,
Ngaruawahia, 1962



Turangawaewae Marae,
Ngaruawahia, 1962



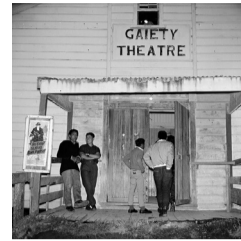
Coronation Celebrations,
Turangawaewae Marae,
Ngaruawahia, 1963



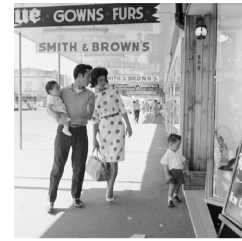
Coronation Celebrations,
Turangawaewae Marae,
Ngaruawahia, 1963



Self portrait,
Te Kaha, 1963



Gaiety Theatre,
Te Kaha, 1963



Main Street,
Rotorua, 1963



Wairoa, 1963



Ruatoria, 1963
(from 'Washday at the Pa')



Ruatoria, 1963
(from 'Washday at the Pa')



Ruatoria, 1963
(from 'Washday at the Pa')



Ruatoria, 1963
(from 'Washday at the Pa')



Ruatoria, 1963
(from 'Washday at the Pa')



Ruatoria, 1963
(from 'Washday at the Pa')



Main Street,
Wairoa, 1963



Main Street,
Wairoa, 1963



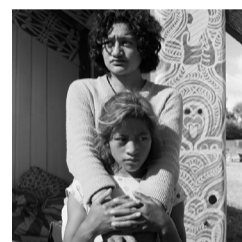
Hiruharama,
Jerusalem, 1963



Post Office,
Hiruharama, Jerusalem,
1963



Rātana Pa,
Rātana, 1963



Ringatu Meeting,
Ruatoki, 1963



Drying eels, Ringatu
Meeting, Ruatoki,
1963



Parikino School,
Whanganui, 1960



Parikino School,
Whanganui, 1963



Parikino School,
Whanganui, 1963



Near Ruatoki, 1963



Queen St,
Auckland, 1963



Stokes Valley,
Wellington, 1964



Te Kao, 1969



Saleyards, Lorneville,
Southland, 1970



Dock, Wellington, 1970



Early Settlers Museum,
Dunedin, Otago, 1970



All Blacks vs British Lions,
Athletic Park,
Wellington, 1971



Anti-War Protest,
Wellington, 1971



Coalminers, Blackball,
West Coast, 1971



Working Mens' Club,
Hokitika, West Coast, 1971



Mt Eden Road,
Auckland, 1971



West Coast Road, 1971



Railway Hotel,
West Coast, 1971



Cathedral Square,
Christchurch, 1971



Catching Crickets,
Hokitika, 1971



Tangi for Inia Te Wiata,
Otaki, 1971



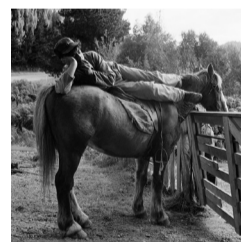
Near Fox Glacier, 1971



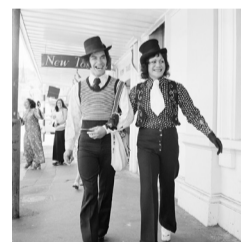
Watching Miss NZ
Contestants, Cuba Mall,
Wellington, 1971



Along, SH1,
Tokoroa Area, 1972



Near Lake
Waikaremoana, 1972



Cuba Street,
Wellington, 1974



Boston Terrace,
Wellington, 1974



Cuba Street,
Wellington, 1974



Cuba Street,
Wellington, 1978



Homewood
Open Day, Karori,
Wellington, 1980



Avondale Racecourse,
Auckland, 1981



Springbok Tour Protest,
Wellington, 1981



Springbok Tour Protest,
Wellington, 1981



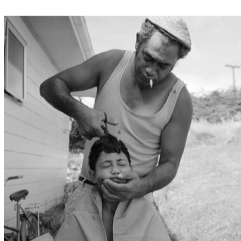
Springbok Tour Protest,
Wellington, 1981



Springbok Tour Protest,
Wellington, 1981



Mongrel Mob
convention, Porirua, 1982



Hikurangi, 1982



Otara, Auckland, 1984



Hikoiki, Waitangi, 1984



Naena, Wellington, 1989