

rodri go hill
opening 4 july 4:30pm
july 4 - 13 mxxviii

NOT THE RISING ST IN
whakaton o te ra



RAM P
GALLERY

Tuesday - Friday
12:30 - 4 pm
or by appointment
R Block, Collingwood St
Hamilton | Kiriitiroa
New Zealand | Aotearoa



Wintec
WAIKATO INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
Te Kura o Waikato



Whitecliffe
COLLEGE OF ARTS & DESIGN



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WAIKATO
Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato

My alarm goes off - the clock marks 5:00am. When I wake up at this time in the morning to start my journey to Te Awa River Ride I think about the story of the servant from The River Which Ran Away (Mataira, 83). In this story, Taupiri was seriously ill and she sent a servant to the lands of Tuwharetoa for help. The servant had a white dog as a companion and was directed to go south of the rising sun towards the mountain region of Tongariro. The white dog then led the way back for the healing waters of Tongariro to flow down to Taupiri. Through the course of my photographic work at Te Awa River Ride I favoured the morning light for the construction of my photographs, thinking about the ways I could suggest the ‘birth of place’, as it was the healing waters of Tongariro, sent early one morning, that became the Waikato River.

“Nō te Awa ahau; Nōku te Awa.”

Ki a Waikato-Tainui, ko te awa o Waikato he
tupuna ā-awa, Ko ia tērā kei tā Kāterina Mataira ki
tāna tuhituhi i ngā kōrero a Te Uira Mānihera mā
mō ‘Te Awa I Tahuti’.

Kua tohua e Rodrigo ki āna whakaahua, ki tēnei
whakaaturanga āna, te hononga o te tangata ki te
awa; o te awa ki te tangata.

Ka taea te kī he whakaaohooho anō, he whakawātea
hoki, nā Te Awa River Ride i aua kōrero nei i tukua
iho mō te riu o Waikato,

Ko tā te whakaaturanga nei he manaaki i aua
whakaohooho, i aua whakawāteatanga, he
whakahoki i te tangata ki tōna awa, i te awa ki ōna
tāngata he aha koa te haereere ā-pahikara hei
\ngahau, hei hākinakina, hei whakapakari i te
tinana.

He tokomauri, he whakaongaonga tēnei tūmomo
whakaohooho i te wairua mai i ēnei whakaahua
nāna, nā Rodrigo Hill.

Assoc. Prof Dr. Tom Roa
Waikato-Maniapoto

Contemporary photographic practice has evolved into a field of possibilities, which includes a flux of representational modes that depict experiences, feelings and emotions. This PhD with Creative Practice Components investigates how photography is embedded within ways of knowing, experiencing and making places and the subsequent visual constructions of place imaginaries. The exhibition South of the Rising Sun comprises the curation of two bodies of photographic works that function as a visual installation of place imaginaries. The works are not a final response to place making or an absolute representation of my research locale. On the contrary, South of the Rising Sun represents a version, a way to photographically coalesce place imaginaries. As a curatorial product South of the Rising Sun works as a mediator of various place histories, stories and imaginaries, actualizing particular place layers connected to the Waikato River and Te Awa River Ride.

Te Awa River Ride is my chosen place and where multiple practices and discourses entangle forming a diverse set of dynamic and intersecting meanings. Te Awa River Ride is a shared pathway with a planned total length of 70km that edges the banks of the Waikato River from Ngaruawahia to Cambridge.

Rodrigo Hill

The exhibition South of the Rising Sun is part of my PhD research with Creative Practice Components at the University of Waikato Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. This PhD research project has support from chief supervisor Associate Professor Karen Barbour (School of Arts) and Associate professors Holly Thorpe (FHSHP) and Craig Hight (University of Newcastle). I would like to thank The University of Waikato Home of Cycling Research Initiative and the Brian Perry and Te Awa River Ride Trusts for their generous scholarship support.

