

Drawing on a decade of photographic work and research, *The Near Future* considers the psychological terrain of the Buller region. Exploring the key elements that make up the socio-political climate of the Westport area—coal and gold mining, cement production, natural environment and climate change. This photographic series, curated by Aaron Kreisler, raises a number of fundamental questions about the future of this place.

As Hannah Watkinson notes in regard to this body of work:

“I began photographing the coastline of the Buller region with the knowledge that at some point, in the near future, the topography would change; rising sea levels, coastal erosion, the winding Coast Road slipping towards the deep blue. In 2015 I was unaware that, like most of the timeframes in Buller, the near future would come a lot sooner than I expected and would unfold before my eyes.”

Hannah Watkinson is based in Ōtautahi Christchurch. Her photographic practice considers the genres of fine art and documentary, attempting to communicate the psychological landscape and social-political environment through images. Watkinson's photographs have been acquired by the University of Canterbury's art collection through a SELECT award, and have been exhibited in Christchurch and Wellington. Completing her Master's degree in 2021 at Ilam School of Fine Arts, a book titled *The Near Future* is to be published, a study of the Buller region drawing on a decade of research and photographic archive.

Aaron Kreisler is the Head of Ilam School of Fine Arts at the University of Canterbury. A former curator at Dunedin Public Art Gallery (2008 – 2014) he produced over 50 exhibitions, including the international projects *Artists from Aotearoa/New Zealand* (co-curator L. Emmerling, Frankfurter Kunstverein, 2012) and *Where do I end and you begin* (co-curated with T. Goniwe, R. Hylton, K. Ritter and V. Shivadas, City Art Centre, Edinburgh, 2014). He is also an award-winning art writer, freelance curator and works on arts-focused initiatives.

The Near Future is presented in partnership with the University of Canterbury Ilam School of Fine Arts and CoCA Centre of Contemporary Art Toi Moroki.

The Near Future Hannah Watkinson

TOI MOROKI
CENTRE OF
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ART

12 June –
2 October

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Te Whare Wananga o Waitaha
CHRISTCHURCH NEW ZEALAND

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|----|--|----|---|
| 1 | <i>Brunner mine site entrance, Grey River, 2015</i> | 11 | <i>Global warming artwork on trailer, Granity, 2020</i> |
| 2 | <i>Culvert with KiwiRail 'branded' car, near Springfield, 2015</i> | 12 | <i>Seafoam nearing road, State Highway 67, Granity, 2020</i> |
| 3 | <i>Ten Mile Creek Road, off Coast Road/State Highway 6, 2016</i> | 13 | <i>Restored Q wagons at the Brakehead, Denniston, 2015</i> |
| 4 | <i>Pike River mine signage, Atarau, 2020</i> | 14 | <i>Miners' Hall, Runanga, 2015</i> |
| 5 | <i>Pike River mine memorial, Atarau, 2015</i> | 15 | <i>Tennis court, Carters Beach, 2020</i> |
| 6 | <i>White horses in fog, State Highway 67 near Birchfield, 2021</i> | 16 | <i>Ray White for sale sign, Coaltown Museum, Westport, 2016</i> |
| 7 | <i>Swimming pool, Waiuta, 2016</i> | 17 | <i>'No/So 1080' graffiti, Karamea Highway, 2016</i> |
| 8 | <i>Holcim Cement plant in rain, Cape Foulwind, 2016</i> | 18 | <i>Abandoned house, Blacks Point, 2016</i> |
| 9 | <i>Kiln room, Holcim Cement plant, Cape Foulwind, 2016</i> | 19 | <i>Skate park or basketball court, Carters Beach, 2016</i> |
| 10 | <i>Holcim Cement plant main entrance, branding removed in fog, Cape Foulwind, 2020</i> | 20 | <i>Granity School from man-made stop bank, 2020</i> |
| | | 21 | <i>'Large Matai Tree', yellow AA road sign, Karamea Highway, 2016</i> |

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