

Depot Artspace

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www.depotartspace.co.nz

Oil & Water, an exhibition from McNamara Gallery Photography, brings together two independent suites of work, Bodies of Water by Wellington artist Murray Lloyd, and Zealandia: Views from the Peak? by Auckland artist Peter Evans. Together, these 19 photographs highlight, within a New Zealand context, the vitally important international issue of available natural resources, posing the question: is clean water the new oil?

This exhibition continues the environmental theme of [McNamara Gallery Photography's Flora Photographica Aotearoa](#), an exhibition held at the [Depot Artspace](#) during the [Auckland Festival of Photography 2014](#), which explored our co-dependence on the plant world.

Access to the sources of water yields immense economic and political power as it is essential to survival; there is no substitute. Worldwide demand is growing, currently doubling roughly every twenty-one years. Many sources of water are drying up and there is not a clear strategy as to how to manage the supply. There are places all over the world which draw groundwater in a non-sustainable way. Are we getting to the point where clean water is the new oil?

In *Bodies of Water*, [Murray Lloyd](#) examines the deceptive nature of picture postcard images of selected New Zealand rivers and lakes. These images of apparently pristine environments, in postcard and large format, draw the viewer in for closer inspection. Beneath the surface is a darker story buried in academic and scientific papers and websites of regional councils, Crown research institutes, and universities. **Lloyd** says "*unchallenged and light hearted, photography and postcards conspire to hide the truth. These were and still are beautiful places. But driving past we would never know how afflicted and degraded these places have become*". He balances a photographer's detachment with a passionate desire to present and confront his viewers.

[Peter Evans'](#) *Zealandia: Views from the Peak?* is a photographic study, which documents the current oil and natural gas industry landscape of New Zealand. The discovery and wide use of oil and natural gas, which are essentially trapped remnants of ancient life forms, has transformed human society, enabling the insatiable growth of the industrialised world and has made a globalised society possible. It has become common knowledge that for every three barrels of oil we consume, only one new barrel is discovered. Meanwhile the demand for oil and gas continues to grow. This is an unsustainable practice in the long-term and has led many to believe that we are at the peak of oil production, and that global oil reserves are approaching an age of terminal decline. This raises critical issues for the future of the economy, transportation and food production worldwide. The purpose of this

project is to document the current oil and natural gas landscape in New Zealand for contemporary contemplation and historical reference.

Paul McNamara will introduce the speakers, [Peter Evans](#) and [Mark Amery](#), for the **forum beginning at 12.30pm on Saturday 6 June**. [Murray Lloyd](#) is currently in Vanuatu as a VSA volunteer.

[Mark Amery](#) and is a well-known arts writer, developer and commentator. He has extensive experience as an arts manager, curator, writer and editor. He has a particular interest in expanding the public commons and community involvement, from both a professional media and contemporary art perspective. Mark was part of the curatorial team at City Gallery 2000-2002, and formerly worked at New Zealand International Festival of the Arts and Artspace. He was previously the director of Playwright, a member of the Wellington City Council Public Art Panel 2006-2012 and a board member of Kapiti Coast's Mahara Gallery.

[Peter Evans](#) graduated with a BFA (Hons) from Elam School of Fine Arts, University of Auckland in 2008 and was awarded the Elam School of Fine Arts Prize for Photography. He has exhibited throughout New Zealand and has work in collections nationally and internationally. His work has always been of a socio-political nature with recent bodies of work focusing on the industrial landscape of New Zealand.

Paul McNamara opened [McNamara Gallery Photography](#) in 2002 and exhibits New Zealand, selected Pacific Rim and International photography. It is dedicated to exhibiting and promoting lens-based media, exploring the range of practice and some of the medium's history. The gallery represents a large number of NZ and some international artists and has produced over 30 outreach exhibitions for other venues, primarily public galleries, aimed at increasing the visibility of, and contributing to the conversations around, photography.

Murray Lloyd & Peter Evans – Oil & Water: Is Clean Water the New Oil? runs from the **30 May – 24 June** in the Depot Artspace Main Gallery. The official opening and forum will take place on Saturday 6 June starting at 12.30pm.

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FURTHER INFORMATION:

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