



Media Release

October 2016

JONO ROTMAN TO PRESENT SOLO EXHIBITION AT PARLOUR, HAWKE'S BAY

Acclaimed contemporary artist Jono Rotman will present a solo exhibition at Parlour from October 5 through November 5, 2016.

Titled *Ōmarunui*, the exhibition will feature six large-scale photographs that thematically explore the historical events that took place at Ōmarunui on October 12, 1866 and their enduring impact today. The exhibition, which forms part of the Hawke's Bay Arts Festival programme, coincides with the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Ōmarunui. This is the first time that this important body of work will be on public display.

For more than ten years, Jono's photographic practice has explored subjects such as sites of incarceration in New Zealand, and his controversial *Mongrel Mob Portraits*. By revealing the strains and legacies of a colonized and bicultural society, these series led him to consider his own relationship, as a fifth generation Pākehā, to the history of modern New Zealand. Jono's matrilineal ancestors came from the British Islands and settled in Hawkes Bay in the mid-19th century. His inquiries into this lineage led him to this body of work, *Ōmarunui*.

The *Ōmarunui* series includes five photographs that examine glass-plate negatives from the Alexander Turnbull Library in Wellington and one photograph of the Ōmarunui memorial, which was unveiled by veterans in 1916 to mark the 50th anniversary of the battle and subsequently knocked over as an act of protest in the 1990s.

The exhibition will serve as a space for the community to reflect on and engage with what is a historically important event for the region of Hawke's Bay. The exhibition will contribute to the dialogue surrounding the 150th anniversary of Ōmarunui, along with other marked commemorative events that are in place around Hawke's Bay during this time.

The public are invited to attend an opening reception for *Ōmarunui* on Wednesday, October 5 from 5pm—6pm at 306 Eastbourne Street East, Hastings.

For more images and information, please email info@parlourprojects.com or visit www.parlourprojects.com.

JONO ROTMAN (b. 1974) grew up in Wellington, New Zealand. He divides his time between New Zealand and the USA. Since 2001 he has been the subject of multiple solo exhibitions, including most recently at Gow Langford Gallery and City Gallery Wellington. In 2013 he was the recipient of the Marti Friedlander Photographic Award. Jono's work is held in private and public collections.

Jono Rotman is represented by Gow Langsford, Auckland.