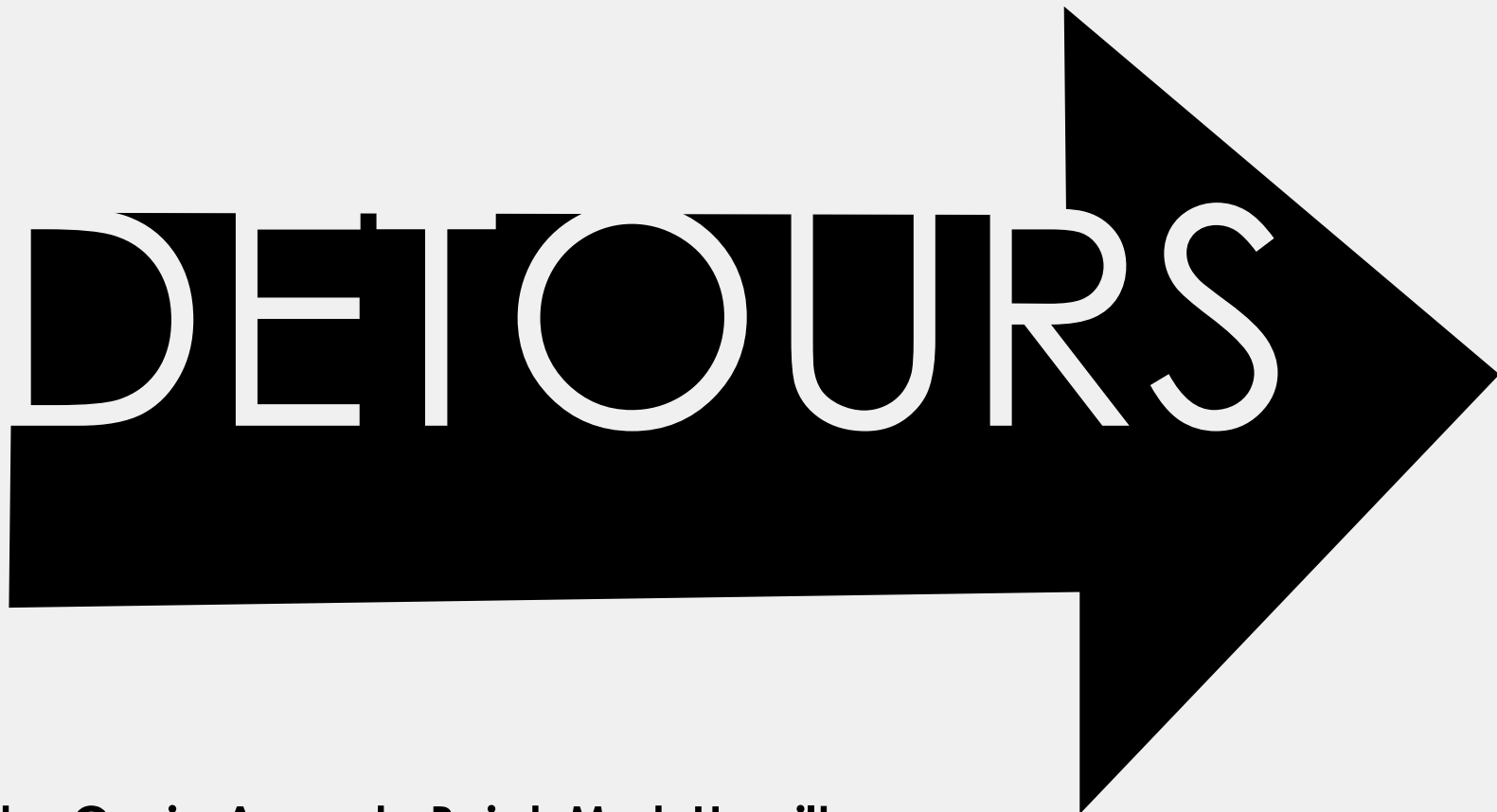


# DETOURS



**Janice Abo Ganis, Amanda Baird, Mark Hamilton,  
Trish Macky, Mark Purdom, Geoff Ridder, ck reynolds,  
Naomi Williams, Stefanie Young**

In recent times, the art of landscape photography has matured. Artists and viewers are increasingly aware of the sentient capabilities of the medium – the landscape photograph's power to offer an experience of space, and place. Images of the landscape are no longer confined to idealised or romanticised views of nature.

Contemporary landscape photography, as represented by the photographs in this exhibition, has a wide and eclectic range of concerns – sometimes inward-looking, sometimes social commentary, often challenging, and invariably questioning.

Landscape photography in the era of post-modern art draws on a number of strategies, devices and techniques in order to engage the viewer. By reframing a suburban backyard, for example, the landscape photograph comments on memory, absence and loss. Light values and photographic

processes are employed in others, imbuing them with an aesthetic which alludes to the temporal qualities of place, and the timelessness of space.

In contrast to these more ethereal images, are photographs which appear benign but hint at some psychological malaise – referencing the darker under-belly of human nature, and society in general. In the photograph of the iconic Waikato river, the thick layer of fog and trees-like-prison-bars impeding the view, serve as metaphors for the subconscious barriers to perception.

In all the photographs in this exhibition, humans are conspicuous in their absence. Each raises questions about the place of humans in the world. And with planet Earth facing monumental challenges relating to population control, depletion of resources, and climate change, these questions come closer to 'home', and ever more urgent.