

Murray Cammick

AK • 75-85

4 March – 1 April 2017

The Darren Knight Gallery is pleased to present its second solo exhibition of Murray Cammick's photographs, this time focusing on the Auckland music scene between 1975 and 1985.

In 1977 along with Alastair Dougal, Murray established the New Zealand music magazine *Rip It Up*. *Rip It Up*'s support of the nascent punk and new wave scene and for iconic New Zealand labels such as *Propeller Records* and *Flying Nun* saw the magazine become a seminal influence on the New Zealand music scene. In its early days Murray was the magazine's publisher, second editor and main photographer.

AK • 75-85 showcases a selection of Cammick's photographs from this period. It includes photographs of New Zealand bands such as *Toy Love*, *The Scavengers*, *The Terrorways*, *Split Enz* and *Dragon* as well as visiting international acts like *Bob Marley*, *Blondie*, *Siouxsie and the Banshees*, *Iggy Pop*, *Dolly Parton*, *The Ramones* and *Ray Charles*.

The title of the exhibition is a reference to **AK•79**, a compilation album of tracks by punk bands active in Auckland, New Zealand in the late 1970s.

I didn't go looking for punk but punk came looking for RipItUp. I recall that I had crossed Airedale Street to avoid the fearsome Suburban Reptiles, not knowing they were art school types like me.

As an Elam photography graduate, I soon started to enjoy photographing the punk scene but I was a music magazine photographer, I was never an actual part of the scene. RipItUp had to define its role as a magazine and cover bands that did not have a record on sale at your local record store.

Finding a writer to go to the first Suburban Reptiles and Scavengers gig at the University was difficult as our early Auckland-based writers were hanging out for the Amazing Rhythm Aces, not punk. I got a volunteer, Mike Chunn, the former Split Enz bassist who was ready for anything or maybe Buster Stiggs told him, "You stole Neil Finn from my band, you owe me!"

Murray Cammick was born in 1953 and currently lives in Auckland, New Zealand, where he maintains his interest in popular culture and music as a major contributor to *AudioCulture* ('the noisy library of New Zealand music') and as the presenter of his long-running radio show, *Land Of the Good Groove* which currently airs on 95bFM. Murray continues to add to his expansive vinyl collection of soul and funk with a sprinkling of jazz, ska, new wave and reggae both old and new.

Cammick's photographs are represented in the collection of the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington, New Zealand.

Join Murray in conversation with Stuart Coupe at the opening on Saturday 4 March at 3.30 pm