

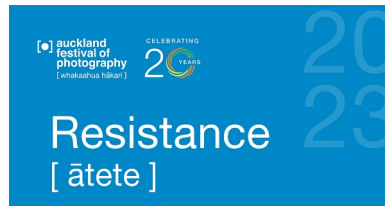
[31 May – 11 June 2023]

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

Auckland Festival of Photography

Theme: 20th Anniversary Edition

Theme for 2023 Auckland Festival of Photography is 'Resistance' - [ātete].



In the widest sense, 2023's festival theme *resistance [ātete]* can define a series of actions - of push and shove, stopping inequality, holding back the extinction of species, taking a stand, belief, hope, holding one's ground and fighting. In any war, a resistance is often unseen, underground, taking risks in uncertain times, led by freedom fighters, activists and protesters.

As it relates to visual imaging and culture, *resistance [ātete]* speaks to innovation and initiative, breaking down barriers, challenging the status quo. In their practice, artists must resist pressure to comply with an economic model and within an art establishment where, for so many, making a living out of being creative is so difficult.

Resistance [ātete] is testimony to artists' and innovators' determination and tenacity, the struggle to convey alternative ideas and ideologies, to overcome adversity, such as the unprecedented Covid era subduing some individuals' talents and motivating others to find safe ways and channels to convey their work to the public.

In many ways, for 20 years the Auckland Festival of Photography's [AFP] evolution and innovation epitomise the idea of *resistance [ātete]*. AFP was founded and developed outside the institutions that currently hold establishment power and privilege. It remains an independent voice for photographic artists and practitioners and is Australasia's longest running photography festival, despite recent declines in annual public funding.

Mavericks usually find themselves on the outside, moving into the inner circle is what inspires innovation to outperform the status quo. In this regard, the Festival has been a pioneer in the arts sector, delivering an impressive series of cultural firsts, commissioning new work and improving audiences' accessibility to photography across the region and motu, the internet and internationally.