

MoMento

Earthquake

John Collie, Stuart Page, Timothy J. Veling

Members Only Magazine

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Earthquake. John Collie, Stuart Page
and Timothy J Veling.
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Front cover: John Collie: *Earthquake damaged
building, Cathedral Square*, 1st July 2011.

Page 2-3: John Collie: *Looking South down
Lichfield Street from High Street*, 1st July 2011.

Page 5: John Collie: *Building demolition, central
Christchurch*, 17th July 2012.

Page 6: John Collie: *Christchurch Town Hall from
Peterborough Street*, 6th July, 2012.

Page 7: John Collie: *Radio Network House
implosion*, 5th August 2012.

Back cover: John Collie: *Nee Ha Thai restaurant,
corner of Manchester and Tuam Streets*, 1st July
2011.





John Collie completed a BFA in Photography at Elam School of Art in 1998 after several years playing and travelling with the band Straitjacket Fits.

He was employed at the Manukau School of Visual Arts until 2009 and completed his Masters degree at Elam in 2008.

His practice is mostly centred around the landscape, and after moving to Christchurch just prior to the recent earthquakes, he found the rapidly changing urban environment inspirational.

John is currently the photographer at the Christchurch Art Gallery.

Stuart Page graduated from University of Canterbury 1980 with an Hons. Diploma in Fine Arts Photography.

As well as exhibiting photography, screenprints and artist's books locally & internationally, Stuart works as a director, cinematographer & editor. His feature documentary SHUSTAK won Best NZ Documentary (2009 NZ International Documentary Festival).

Stuart's work is in the collections of MoMA (NYC), Te Papa Tongarewa, Auckland Art Gallery, Christchurch Art Gallery and collections in NZ, USA and Europe.

The cornerstones of Tim Veling's practice are the psychological landscape and social-political environment. His work straddles the genres of fine art and documentary photography.

He is currently engaged in long-term projects relating to the aftermath of Christchurch's devastating 2010 and 2011 earthquakes. He has exhibited nationally and internationally.

Tim lectures in photography at the University of Canterbury School of Fine Arts, New Zealand. He is a key contributor to and administrator of *Place in Time: The Christchurch Documentary Project*.

Earthquake

"Did the earth move for you?", was the laconic text sent to us on the 4th of September, 2010. A few hours earlier I'd been sitting in the dark, huddled in the hallway with my partner and kids (who'd gone back to sleep. I'd been stabbed in the sole of the foot by a broken glass in the rush to the kids room, and had a tea towel wrapped around it in an attempt to stop the blood flow. I was feeling faint. The earth did actually move – really violently.

The neighbour's chimney had smashed the rear window of our car. The city was black and deathly silent.

I missed the even bigger quake in February 2011 as I was on leave. A few days later I came back to Christchurch, and with a few other staff went into the Christchurch Art Gallery where I work. After assembling at the edge of the Red Zone we were allowed through the army cordon to rescue the freshly installed Petrus van der Velden exhibition. It was now sharing the touring gallery with at least 80 emergency workers, rows of computers and temporary worktables. I think the new occupants were happy when we removed these dark brooding landscapes with their tumbling down rocks from the dimly lit walls.

Two months after the February quake I was asked to photograph Neil Dawson's Chalice for the cover of *Art News New Zealand*. I set off in my hard hat and hi-visibility vest with a guy from the parking division at council. He'd recently been seconded to his new role as Red Zone escort. We headed into the heart of the Red Zone – Cathedral Square.

I signed in to the Zone at the checkpoint and walked up Gloucester Street, taking some shots of the general destruction and abandonment. It felt strangely liberating – a mixture of war zone anxiousness and a strong sense of a lonely, stark and deserted landscape. When we arrived at the Square the Chalice looked pretty much OK, but of course Christ's Church Cathedral was wrecked and looking all the more Gothic with its tower half down and a giant emergency steel structure propping up the facade and rose window. All around bits of building had dropped off, the bells lay motionless and silent on a patch of grass in front of me.

When entering the now accessible Cathedral Square one can watch scores of overseas and local visitors peering through the protective fence taking numberless photographs and having, arguably, a more religious experience of the power of nature than they ever might have had with the rote rituals of 'churchianity'.

While things are slowly moving on in the city centre, the same can't be said for the suburbs. A drive around the Avon Loop reveals broken roads, endless road cones, skewed lamp-posts and of course, damaged houses with overgrown gardens and now graffiti and evidence of the odd arson. The number of blank sections increases daily. This has caused a housing crisis – less houses for residents and the workers pouring in – the locals are getting squeezed every which way. The boy racers have competition from project managers in an enormous fleet of shiny new four wheel drives – I didn't know there were so many diggers, loaders, nibblers and trenchers in existence, and wonder where will they all go after their job is done? Will they just be buried along with the millions of tons of rubble piling up in Burwood forest . . . ? Time will tell.

John Collie, 2013









Stuart Page
Cory and his mates,
Hereford Street, June 2011



Stuart Page
Mike, demolition worker,
Hereford Street, June 2011



Stuart Page
Railway Station demolition,
Moorhouse Avenue, September 2012



Stuart Page
Corner of St Asaph and High Streets,
June 2011



Stuart Page
Man entering restricted use building,
Cambridge Terrace, June 2011



Stuart Page
Demolition worker,
Papanui Road, June 2011



Timothy J Veling
Dave Gorrie,
Avonside, Christchurch, 2012



Timothy J Veling
Avonside Drive,
Avonside, Christchurch, 2012



Timothy J Veling
Red Zone Party,
Avonside Drive, Christchurch, 2013



Timothy J Veling
River Road,
Avonside, Christchurch, 2013



Timothy J Veling
Trudi Nicholson,
Avonside Drive, Avonside, Christchurch, 2012



Timothy J Veling
Keller Street, Avonside,
Christchurch, 2013



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