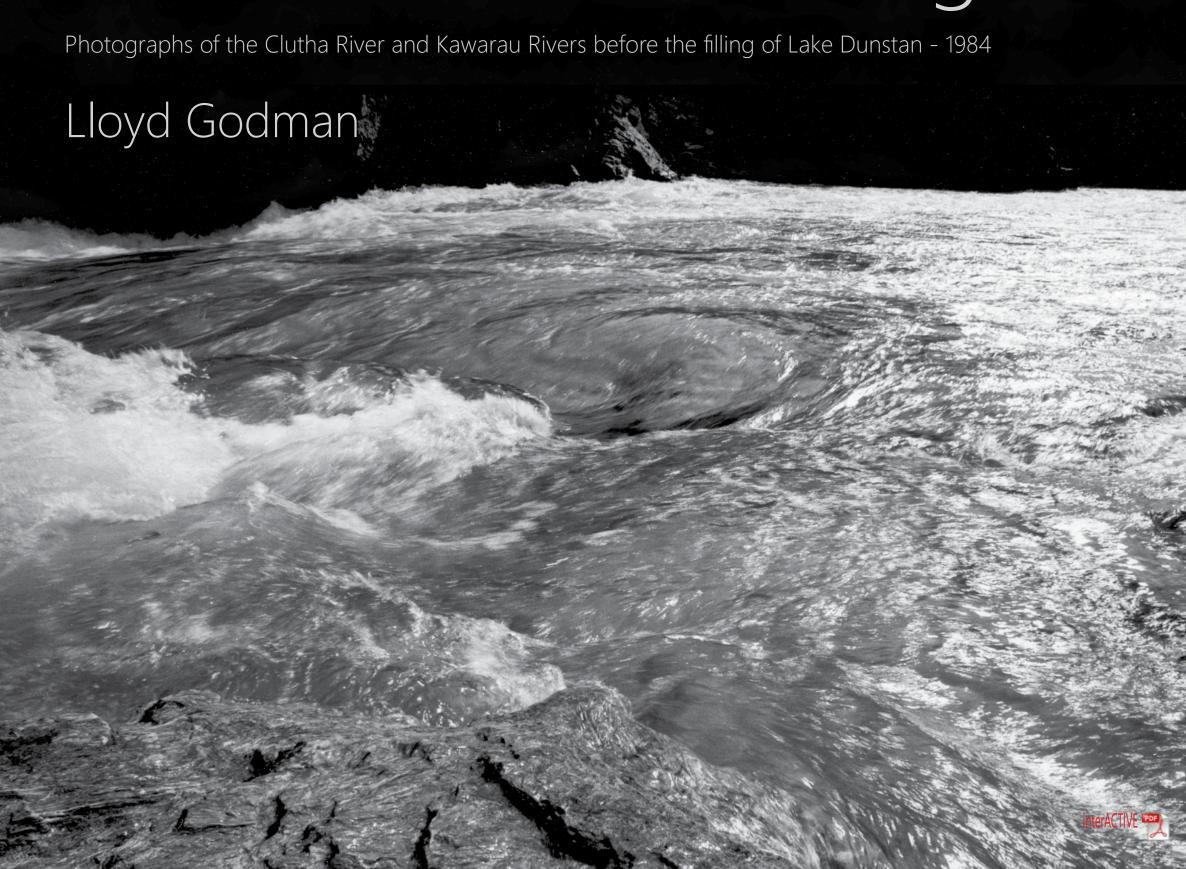
The Last Rivers Song



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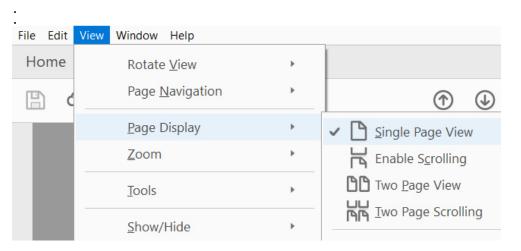
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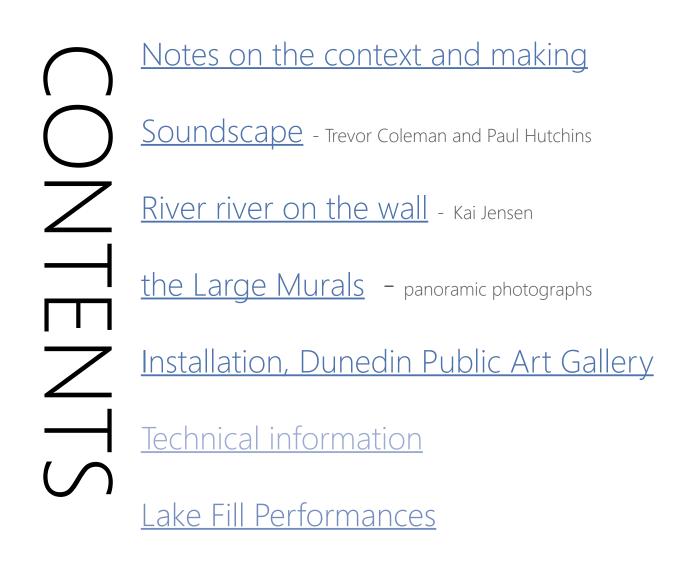


The Last Rivers Song

LLOYD GODMAN

This book is based on the photographs from The Last Rivers Song project, Clutha River Photo-murals and Panels from 1983 - 4.

This was a photo-based project exploring critical elements (earth, & water, light & dark) of the Clutha and Kawarau Rivers, before the filling of Lake Dunstan at the completion of the hydro dam at Clyde in Central Otago, New Zealand.



Maps

Projects schematic

Notes on the context and making of

The Last Rivers Song

The early 1980s in New Zealand was a time when many thing of the nature of girls. environmental issues predominated, it was a time when government rhetoric proposed large scale development of natural resources as a means of financial recovery and future social security in what was called Rob Muldoon's "Think Big Schemes". While some strongly favoured large scale development, others loudly condemned the rhetoric. It was a time when social division prevailed and the community became polarized over these issues.

One of these "think big" schemes was the proposed aluminium smelter to be built on the sea grassed sand flats that converge with the expansive tidal estuary near Aramoana at the entrance to Otago Harbour in Dunedin. The pro-smelter lobby argued that the smelter would create jobs, bring growth and prosperity to the ailing economy of an old stagnating city, while the anti-smelter group argued that it would be detrimental and irrepathese reasons must never proceed.



Aramoana was a place I felt passionately about, a place that I had meaningful personal connection to, an emotional possession. For me it was a site where a part of "Eden fell"; where we first cooked baked beans over an open fire, where we watched ace surfer Carse set fire to the lupines and the hot tongues of flame licked each strand of the marram grass as we laughed with a stupid naivety. It was a place where Dickie showed us the fundamentals of hanging the tail out on the graveled corners in the trusty Morri 8, a place where we engaged in our first beer-drinking weekends, although we spilt more than we ever swallowed, and a place where we discovered some-



rably change the sensitive environment. They suggested Aramoana was a place I knew well, a place where in the the effects of the smelter would provide minimal financial late 1960s I learnt to surf in a fun-filled adolescence, a benefits, but damage a fragile environment and associ- place where the chill of the south wind coaxed the sunated wildlife, change the life style of the residents and for sparkled swells with a whispering kiss into the hollow waves we searched for. A place where the white plumes of spray feathered before shooting skyward as the swells arched towards the fine white sands between us and the shore, where a salt rain lashed us as each wave crashed in an ephemeral crystal vortex. A place where the north east swells had a tempered power perfect for learning on, unlike the large powerful widow makers that crashed onto the beach at St Clair and Blackhead leaving one's body and ego bruised. A place where the hot summer sand barked under scuffing feet that hurried to be someplace else, a place where I first shared the ocean with the small blue penguins that surfaced at the most unexpected place and time. A place where the royal albatross skimmed miles across the ocean surface on the flick of a single feather while we strained to paddle the short distance through the waves to the lineup. Aramoana was a special place.

But long before this it was a place of different memories, an older nostalgia. A place of family picnics, where the ocean was cold and unfamiliar and swimming was only for a heated pool. A place to kick balls, fish, a place of summer salads, cousins, uncles, aunts, grand-parents, a place to talk and be a kid in the January sun, a place to take the long climb and eventual race down the great sand hill blown hard against the even greater cliff face, as had my mother and her friends a generation before.

Photographs are something I have always been intrigued with. From as early as I can remember, I was captivated by their ability to act as depositories of memory. They not only allow us to recall with specific detail people, places and events of our past but they can also express an abstraction from the real in the process of translation. In the case of my mother and friends at the hockey picnic, the photographs create a memory of an event not directly experienced by me, but are intriguing because of the generational connection. From early in my life, the combined narrative of my mother's memories and the irregular discovery of the photographs in an album established a powerful bond between myself and the place that augmented my own growing experience.

For as long as I could remember, Aramoana, was a place I belonged; I to it, and it to me. Before moving back to Dunedin in 1974, my life changed. In the intervening period I moved away from Dunedin for several years, lived in the North Island and then Hawaii, experienced another life I could not have imagined if I had remained. Soon after my return, I had created a series of photographs and had my first exhibition, Landforms. Around this time, the smelter proposal surfaced, and it was an unwelcome intrusion to my ideals of this this place. Like many others, I was convinced that surely an aluminum smelter would ruin the essence of Aramoana, with insignificant reward for the community and the country and I needed little convincing the proposition must be protested.



Aramoana family picnic. Lloyd's father Ron bottom right, his mother, back. The Family Car is on the left an Armstrong Siddeley Circa. 1959



loyd's mother with her sisters and friends on a hockey club picnic base of the central rock by the ocean are people and give some



It was! From the nation, as well as the local community, one I belonged to. Cromwell, at the meeting of the Clumaking as a more serious activity and a significant part universe. of my life, and like the other artists, it seemed relevant to

come a fashion, a catch phrase, a band wagon to climb my cousin we had flooded a whole Apricot orchard as we in the news paper, that of a well-meaning North Island on tree-ripe apricots as we picked box full's in recomaimlessly on the sands of Victory Beach across the har- firm fruit that was not yet ripe - the ripe fruit we were almaking an important series of documentary images.

cern drove a need to comment on the proposal, I was Andrews, Victoria, where I now have over 160 varieties. also concerned about the ineptness of working on a project that appeared to have adequate comment, a project everyone one and their dog wanted a piece of. I debated the issues over many months until it became obvious the planning for this smelter could only proceed under the rhetoric of the 'THINK BIG' schemes promoted by the government.

The viability of the smelter proposal was associated with and was indeed dependent upon another "Think Big" project, the cheap 'surplus power' produced from the proposed Clyde Dam output; an equally dubious project. Here was another important environmental issue, for the high dam proposal once completed would destroy a exceptionally wild stretch of river and much of the unique surrounding area. For me it was an equally important environmental injustice, another saga of `Environmental vandalism'.

As with Aramoana, the Clutha River was also a place of family nostalgia, a place I had emotional possession and

there were out cries for the planning and project to cease. tha and Kawarau rivers was a place where as a family we Environmentalists, scientists, lawyers, recreational users, had holidayed for many summers, a place where I had families that had lived here for generations, and others swum with my brothers and sister, friends and relations in that had recently moved to the area, all protested, and the calmer stretches of the blue swirling currents around among the voices, none seemed more poignant than Lowburn, where the water quietly curled and sucked the artists. Prominent figures, like Ralph Hotere, Andrew around the warm lumps of sand held together by willow Drummond, Chris Cree-Brown, Chris Booth, to name a teres that locals called Sandy King's Islands, as it ran seafew, made significant and powerful work that related to ward from Lake Wanaka and licking under the lazy hangthe issue, they gained publicity and acclaim with exhibi- ing branches of the willow trees. It was a place where I had tions and appropriate comment in various, news papers, hunted tadpoles as if they were strange magical creatures art magazines. Initially, because of the involvement of that might possess the answers of life in a shorter span these artists, I felt I had to be part of this cause too. After than our own, fished for eels in black waters on a dark all, it was a place I considered "my patch". Around this night with flickering fire-light and torch, slept under the time I was beginning to regard my photographic image- clear inland skies and wondered how large really was the

link the smelter issue to my photographic image-making. It was a place where we had played a full 9 holes of golf with cricket bats. It as a place where I had already con-Unfortunately, all too quickly Aramoana seemed to be- ducted my own dam experiments; a place where, with aboard for the sake of fashionable protest, and from my experimented with the unlocked controls of an irrigation perspective it reached its peak when a report surfaced dam, it was a place where we had also gorged ourselves photographer, camera at the ready, was found wandering pense. The orchardist had instructed us only to pick the bour, convinced he was at the threatened location and lowed to eat. It seemed strange at the time that the best tasting fruit was discarded, and this led to my interest in growing my own fruit that I could let ripen on the tree. While I still felt strongly about the smelter, and the con- First in the garden at Brighton, Dunedin, and then in St

It was a place where on more than one occasion strong winds and heavy rain had leveled our tent, a place where in the warm breeze and darkness of a summer's night I had kissed a first love as the river below continually washed the rocks as it ran forever onward to the ocean.

And over the summers it was a wild place I had always spent hours entranced, watching the water spin and curl in the blue magic; its immeasurable depths and white rapids, it was a place where I had witnessed the evidence of hard rock torn away by the softness of water, it was a place where the surge of water pushed a land locked surf, a place where the river pounded off down the gorge sucking every drop of water from the black tarns high in the mountains, from the melting winter snows above.



At Sandy King's Island, near Lowburn, Lloyd standing on right, his

sensed that, here in these canyons was something of a that would be affected, would be changed forever. primeval New Zealand: a guintessence that only the initiated could perceive, a darker mysterious side to the landscape that opposed the colourful popular post card images of yellow poplar trees, blue water, the iconic meeting of the waters at Cromwell, the delicate cultivation of the orchards, the cheerful escape of a summer vacation. The darker side of the land was a distinct quality that Van Der Velden, McCahon, James K Baxter, Hotere had already perceived in the landscape, opposing forces, a blinding light against a primeval mysterious blackness.



Rose Kennedy a first love of Lloyd's at Lake Wanaka at the head

Surprisingly, there was much less protest from artists about the dam, the focus for many had been the smelter, and those artists that did make comment on the river were perceived as less "voque"; the dam issue was not the "bandwagon" the smelter was. So, not only for its importance as a significant place but because of this unacknowledgement by the art establishment in 1983 I decided to work with the Clutha River and not on a project centered on Aramoana.

From the outset, I realized that while the smelter protest was much more likely to succeed, the government was already committed to the dam and construction was under way, if for no other reason than the fact that political futures were at stake, and the project was unlikely to be terminated. I was not put off by not being able to halt the project through art as protest, indeed it insinuated But from my very first visit to this environment, I also a poignancy in working on a project centred on a place

However other artists also worked with the dam issue; ered Byford Creek, Hydes Spur, Sonora Creek, Leaning Robin Morrison, a sensitive series of portraits on the resi-Rock Creek discovered Cairnmuir Gully, Gibraltar Rock, dents effected by the flooding; Marilynn Webb a compel- Nine Mile Creek, Jackson Creek, Firewood Creek, Deadling series of prints called Good Bye - Clutha Blue in 1983 man's Point, Walker's Creek, Banockburn and Molyneux and Bruce Foster a series of Cibachrome prints investigat- Face, discovered names to places that I would soon being the fluorescent pre-construction lines painted on the come much more familiar with. land, it seemed none had dealt with the elements that I found compelling, the essence of the river, the contrasts of rocks and the water, of solid and fluid, of blackness and whiteness and the spiritual analogy of light against the dark void.



Cairnmuir face and the Clutha River 1984 notice the fruit growers road on the opposite bank of the river. This was eventually flooded when the dam was filled. On the lower left is a digger undertaking some work for the construction of the dam.

Initially I researched the area to be affected and from the relevant information, mapped out the boundaries my project should investigate, discovered the creeks, streams, the rocks, bluffs, sweeping currents, swirling eddies that would disappear under the proposed hydro lake. I looked closer, discovered the names of these features, discov-

Eventually, the protest against the smelter at Aramoana But quite soon, I also discovered there was more at stake was successful, the proposal became less and less viable than just the flooding of the "Clutha River", for quite a and finally disintegrated, leaving the environment intact stretch of the Kawarau branch that converges at Cromas it remains today. However, the dam proposal was one well and runs down from Queenstown and Lake Wakitipu project that despite logic, cost over-runs, the discovery would be stilled by the high-dam too, the filling lake was of earthquake fault lines under the foundation, re-road- to push up the reaches of not one but two rivers, still the ing problems, threatened subsidence on the banks, was native waters of two wild rivers, and the loss of both these pushed and pushed against natural odds to completion. areas motivated me to complete this project.

During 1983-4 I made several expeditions to the area, minutes in bright sunlight, and up-rated the fastest photographing extensively along the winding curves commercial film from 400 ISO to 1800 ISO. of the river that would soon be flooded. I camped with Elaine, then pregnant with Stefan, our first son, in For me the true essence of this river was the relentless the immense eerie valleys and canyons like Cairnmuir force of the water, the unification of rain drops, melt-Gully that run up from the river near the fruit grower's ing snow flakes and ice into a potent force, seeping road across the river from the main gorge road so I slowly from the frozen heights into ever growing trickcould photograph the last and first light on the river. les, babbling brooks, tumbling steams, racing creeks, As in the central image of Clutha Panel XII. I spent win- small rivers channeled by the hardness of the bare ter days with a river in full flood as the sleet turned rocks into the third fastest flowing river in the world. colder to snow and spun shrapnel-like from the sky to merge with leaping splashes which hold a scream in every drop of river water thrown skyward from the turbulent rapids. As in the images of Mural II.



Lake Dunstan was filled the bridge was submerged and remains

I climbed and crawled over the raw boulder-strewn works that expressed the full power of the rivers. In banks of both sides of the rivers, I witnessed the work the first few prints I made, the mighty river looked like of water and ice, sheer chasms cut in the rock over a small stream, I decided I would need to explore oththousands of years, the huge boulders tossed down er visual strategies the gorge like broken marbles, and I left only foot marks in the thick silt piled on the bank after a flood, while all the time taking photographs.

During these expeditions I shot roll after roll of film, always investigating the essential elements of the river the reflective qualities of the rushing water - the hardness and darkness of the rocks. I constructed a long boom with a hinge and pulley system that allowed me to suspend a light weight camera with a motor drive 15ft out into the river and shot a full sequence with several rolls of special 72 frame auto winder film. I pushed the capabilities of photographic film of the era to the max. Down-rated special film from 12 ISO to 3 ISO to allow long time lapse exposures of several



shots is tied to the roof.

Back in Dunedin, once the negatives were developed and the proof sheets made, the magic was revealed. From the raw visual resource, I began to examine ways of working with the negatives to create photographic

Some of the frames were shot as three or four image sequences, moving poetic manner. I was drawn to the repetitive elements and the melodic an insatiable budget. musical sensibility the composites suggested.

joined several images together to create expanded composite works and of 1984. looked at scale. I decided to dramatize the river and print large! The largest photographic mural paper I could locate was 40 inches wide so printing full frame this gave a print 40 X 60 inches. When over laid as composites Soundscape these could be expanded out to 20 ft or more. For the mural works I first printed a smaller photograph with all the necessary burning and dodge By chance one night while I was working on the project I ran into Paul adjustments, then copied the image onto a sheet of 4x5 film to make the enlargement from. To get the degree of enlargement needed, the enlarger was swing out from the bench so as the image projected onto the floor. enlarger in place. I fashioned a large vacuum easel to hold the paper fast driven from a vacuum cleaner, I remember exposing the first print and trying to process it on the floor with sponges. It was late and Peter Nicholls was helping me, when the image was fixed he congratulated me, I stood up hit the enlarger which lurched forward, the weights slid off hit the print and ripped it.

Peter, said if you are really an artist you will just stay and get this first one For the exhibition of large murals at the DPAG the Trevor Coleman and done; he made me stay until 2am in the morning to re-print this image. However I decided there must be a better way of developing the large sheets and made a special series of tube trays to process the prints by rolling them through the solutions. This was a much more effective manner of processing the prints and all the reaming prints were developed using this method.

There were so many images I wanted to use in the project I decided to print a smaller set of images that was laid out in a grid for the Clutha Panels. The painting Six days in Nelson and Canterbury by Colin McCahon was a great influence on the design of these works. In the layout of both murals and Other exhibitions: panels I often looked to exploit the filmic quality of the sequences, where the water moved, bubbled and pulsated as the camera skimmed past the Southland Museum and Art Gallery, Invercargill, New Zealand. surface of the water. In 2012 I was able to create a stop frame animation of the river from the many sequence images shot at this time.

The work from this period was duly completed, exhibited during 1984 as a large series of mural photographs up to 20 ft long and a smaller series of photographs, mounted in sequences that became known as the Clutha Panels. Later the work was published in 1989 in a book (Last Rivers Song) with an introduction by Brian Turner, who was also instrumental in publishing the work. Despite this and the fact that the dam construction, problematic as it was, continued in one form or another, I never expected the flooding to happen, for so many years it appeared so distant.

the viewpoint left to right across the scene from frame to frame, but not as Depending whether one was a procrastinator, engineer, government offia perfectly aligned panorama. These sequences deliberately played with cial, politician, local, protester or contractor, the completion of the dam and visual disjuncture where visual elements repeated from the left of one im- filling of the lake became both dream and nightmare. Problems seemed to age into the right of the next. The effect expanded the view in a visually ooze from the very rock itself, a dyke-like structure with eleven leaks and

I made 2 copies of each proof sheet and cut one set up to paste them While the large murals filled a gallery at the Dunedin Public Art Gallery the down in a rage of lay ups. For the murals I exploiting a strong gestalt I panels opened simultaneously at the Marshall Seifert Gallery in the winter

Hutchins in a Pizza place. He was intrigued with the river work I was doing and suggested that along with Trevor Coleman they could do a sound scape for the exhibition. We set it up to record after a gig they were do-Heavy weights were placed on the back of the base board to hold the ing at the Dunedin Town Hall. I set up a slide projector with a sequence of slides from the photographs that played onto a screen. As the sequence of images progressed on a screen they composed the track live, responding directly to the images. Back in the studio Trevor completed a few edits and the sound was complete. With changing tempo and intensity, the enigmatic sound augmented the large images to create an even deeper audience experience. The river flows, rages and roars, drains over rock ledges.

> Paul Hustchins scoundcape played continuously on a cassette tape format. Trevor and Paul also played live at the opening in the Dunedin Public Art Gallery. However over the intervening years copies of the sound track were lost by both myself and Trevor. Then around 2010 Trevor found a copy in a shoe box under his mothers bed and the track was salvaged. This allowed a MP3 file to be created.

Listen to the <u>Last Rivers Song Sound Track</u>

Both the large murals and smaller panels were exhibited in 1985 at the

The large mural works were exhibited at Olivers Restaurant Clyde and also the DOC head quarters, Wanaka.

But finally, after endless delays, the set time had come, the dam was complete and ready to fill. For some time it stood awaiting commission like a grotesque great Egyptian pyramid, a technological wonder waiting for a purpose, waiting for the pharaoh to die. The main highway was stabilized, enough drainage tunnels drilled and hill sides removed or secured enough not to tumble down into the lake, and the river would change forever, would sing its last song. I was quite dismayed when a date was set and the flooding would finally begin. As with the earlier series of photographs, I felt I had to respond to the irrevocable act, the death of the river's song. I felt I had to mark the passing in some way, but if I did it would have to be in a much different manner than the earlier work that celebrated the rocks and water, a response would demand another quite different strategy.

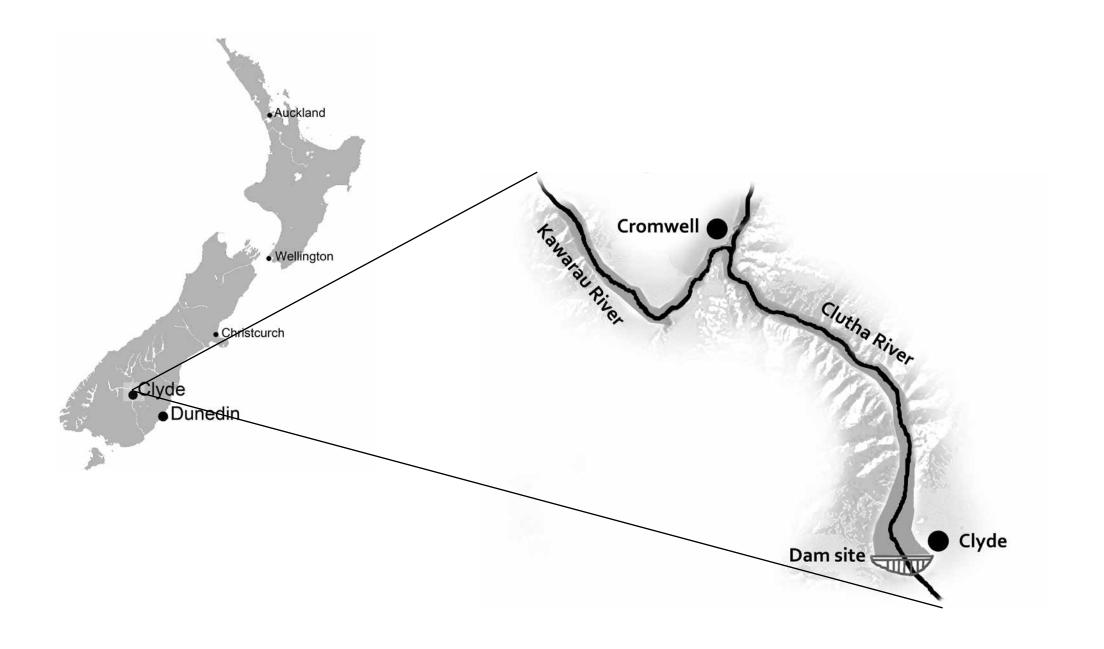
Two performance works eventuated Lake Fill I and Lake Fill II.



The Clyde Dam with Lake Dunstan - 2011



Cairnmuir face and the Clutha River after the dam fill - 2004



GODMAN projects CONTENTS

The Last Rivers Song context and making of The Last Rivers Song

River river on the wall - Kai Jensen - NZ Listener October 21 1984

when the Clyde Dam fills.

The enormous photo-murals of The Last Rivers Song, venge for the dam a denial that humanity exists.

On one all, the Kawarau River in flood is poised above sizes the splash as the lens is wholly submerged. your head in seven overlapping panels: a total mural flows" Godman says, " but the Kawarau surges. I saw for "the crucifixion of the land". it flow down one side of a rock and then surge back up the other side, more like a tide than a river. To get This is the sole clue to the artist's outrage in the muthis shot, however, I had to be down low. With such rals themselves. However, outrage courses through violence, with boulders being pushed around, I won- his typed commentary on the exhibition. And when dered what I was doing there."

The hard light of that snowy day and Godman's use his family. The damming of the Clutha, which will subof contrast create a savage effect: twin arms of rock merge much of the Kawarau gorge as well, seems to and furious water reaching for you. Yet their foaming him "like a bowel stoppage for the whole country". finger-tips dance with a strange, inhuman gaiety. This Other photographers have recorded the human hismixture of alien harshness and alien joy pervades the tory which will vanish in the lake, but Godman feels " exhibition.

Meanwhile, your ears are full of the musical roar and Hence the determination to show the wild riverscapes piping of water as it grinds rock, the hiss of rock chips which will be sacrificed for electric power we don't realcarried down the channel. Music composed and re- ly need. This determination has sustained him through corded for the exhibition by Trevor Coleman (synthe- huge labour. He estimates that 600 hours have gone siser) and Paul Hutchins (flute) pushes you beneath into the project, three expeditions to Central Otago the rivers' surface. This is not a purist's show of tidy, and weeks in the Otago Polytechnic darkrooms, where silent photographs, but "almost an installation" (God- he is a technician. He had to build special equipment man), a grand experiment, which comes close to out- to take the photographs, then build special darkroom rage, risks melodrama.

You turn away, but there is no escape: high up the yielded so much material that a second exhibition, se-

hese are not so much photographs as a delib- opposite wall the whole Clutha bears down on you: quences of small river photographs, was held at the

level. The red, used only on the middle panel, emphapanels saying" I find it sinister."

height of three meters, width of seven. Godman used This effect, potentially a cliche', contributes here to a Kawarau and Clutha where we stand. But Godman is a five-metre camera boom and water proof hous- sense of the river's indifference to our observation: it borne up - there is no need to drown if you love rivers ing to place our eyes in midstream, inches above the is a slap in the face. It obscures the only hint of human so. "No not Sinister." I wanted to show a landscape white water. The big Kawarau mural was taken during presence in any of the five works on display, a tiny before humans came to New Zealand, a pre-animal showers of snow, when the river was at its angriest telephone pole atop the bluff. To Godman this pitiful landscape... "He has succeeded so well in this, flood-- risen four metres. " Most people think a river just artefact is a deliberate reminder of McCahon's symbol ing The Last Rivers Song with both artistic and political

> he speaks of the dam, his disgust is emphatic. As a child, Godman spent many holidays in Cromwell with they have missed the point."

> equipment to develop the one by one-and-half meter sheets of "mural paper". His Central Otago trips

erate attempt to drown anyone who walks into a royal procession of water. The Kawarau's wildness is Marshall Seirfert Gallery in Dunedin. Godman refuses the east room of the Dunedin Public Art Gallery. absent, but the force of the water column descending to estimate how much money it all cost him to the They are whole rivers, suspended on the wall, with no the infinite gorge towards you is awesome. The end point where he handed the prints over to the Dunedin guarantee that they will stay up there. These are wa- frames of this six-panel crescent are gold-toned with Public Art Gallery for mounting (the gallery may chose terscapes that will vanish, will themselves be drowned the river's own gold into a deep dark blue-black. The one work from the exhibition in return for mounting tenth of an ounce of pure gold used in the exhibition expenses). He is amused to recall the photographer was donated by a dredge operator on the Kawarau. who said, early in the scheme, "But you can't do a project like this without a grant from the Arts Council" an exhibition by Lloyd Godman, are a determined as- The river gold over sepia tone produces a medley of Godman did and as the murals went up for the exhibisault on the human viewers by the inhuman energies rich reds and browns in a third mural, like the rust on tion opening he seemed numb in reaction to the end of rock and water. They are, if you like, the rivers' re- an old freighters side. The mural is "smaller": succes- of all the work. Then another photographer asked him sive shots of one view, a rugged bluff from the water about the extremes of black and white in the hanging

> The rivers pounce from the walls, a confluence of force that his rivers may well flow onto other polished floors in other main galleries soon.



The Last Rivers Song

the Large Murals - panoramic photographs





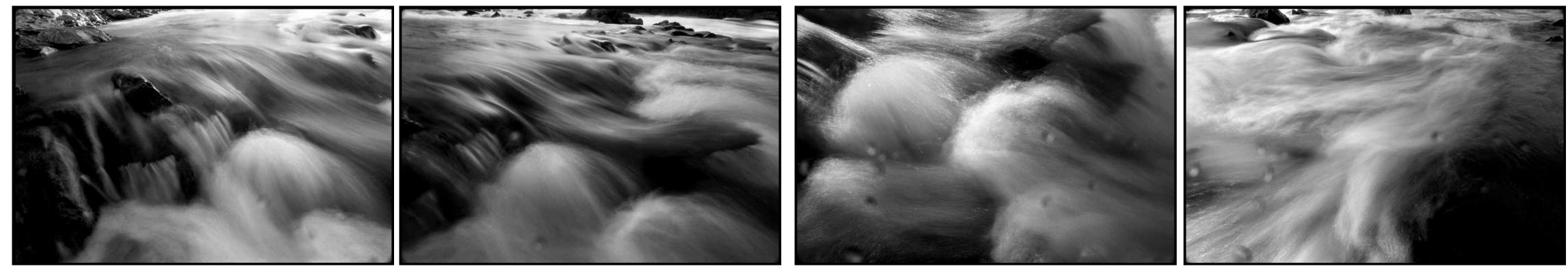




The Last Rivers Song, Mural V - 1984
Original silver gelatine exhibition prints: Total length approximately 4560 cm X 1060 cm (3 prints 1520 cm X 1060 cm each)
Collection of Central Stories Museum and Art Gallery

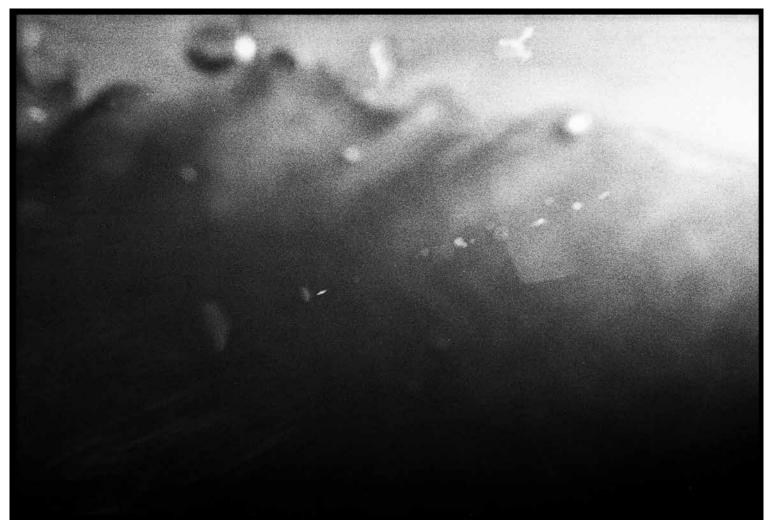
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The Last Rivers Song photographs from the Large Murals



The Last Rivers Song, Mural V - 1984
Original silver gelatine exhibition prints: Total length approximately 4608 cm X 1060 cm (4 prints 1520 cm X 1060 cm each)
Collection of Central Stories Museum and Art Gallery







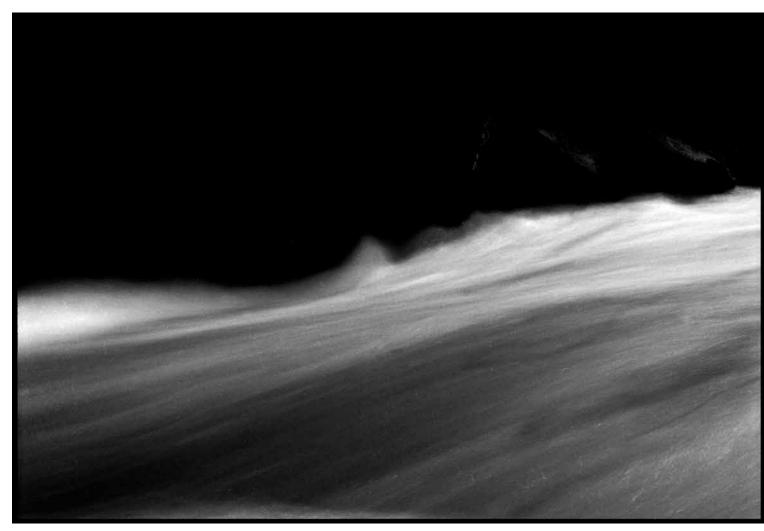
The Last Rivers Song, Mural I - 1984
Original silver gelatine exhibition prints: Total length approximately 4560 cm X 1060 cm (3 prints 1.52 X 1.06 each) central print gold toned Collection of Central Stories Museum and Art Gallery

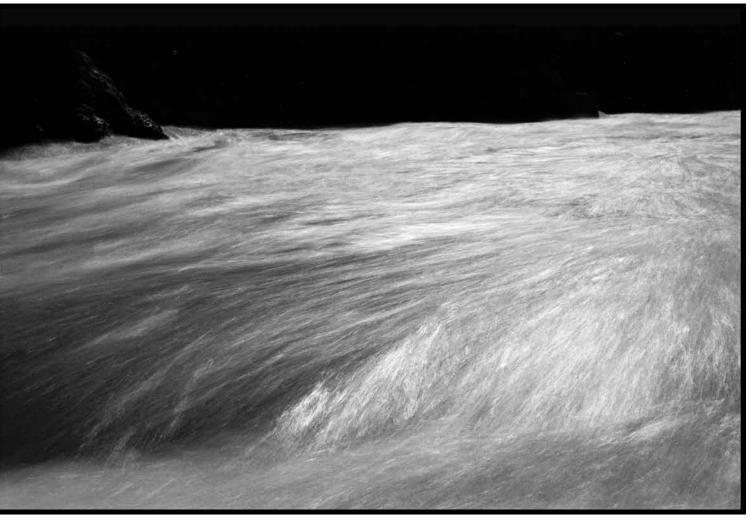






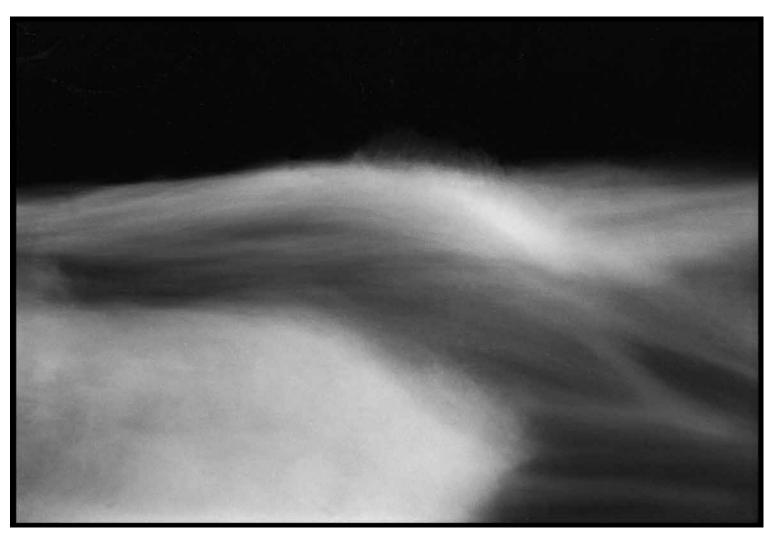
The Last Rivers Song, New Mural VII - 1984 This work was not part of the original mural series but was added as a composite in recent years







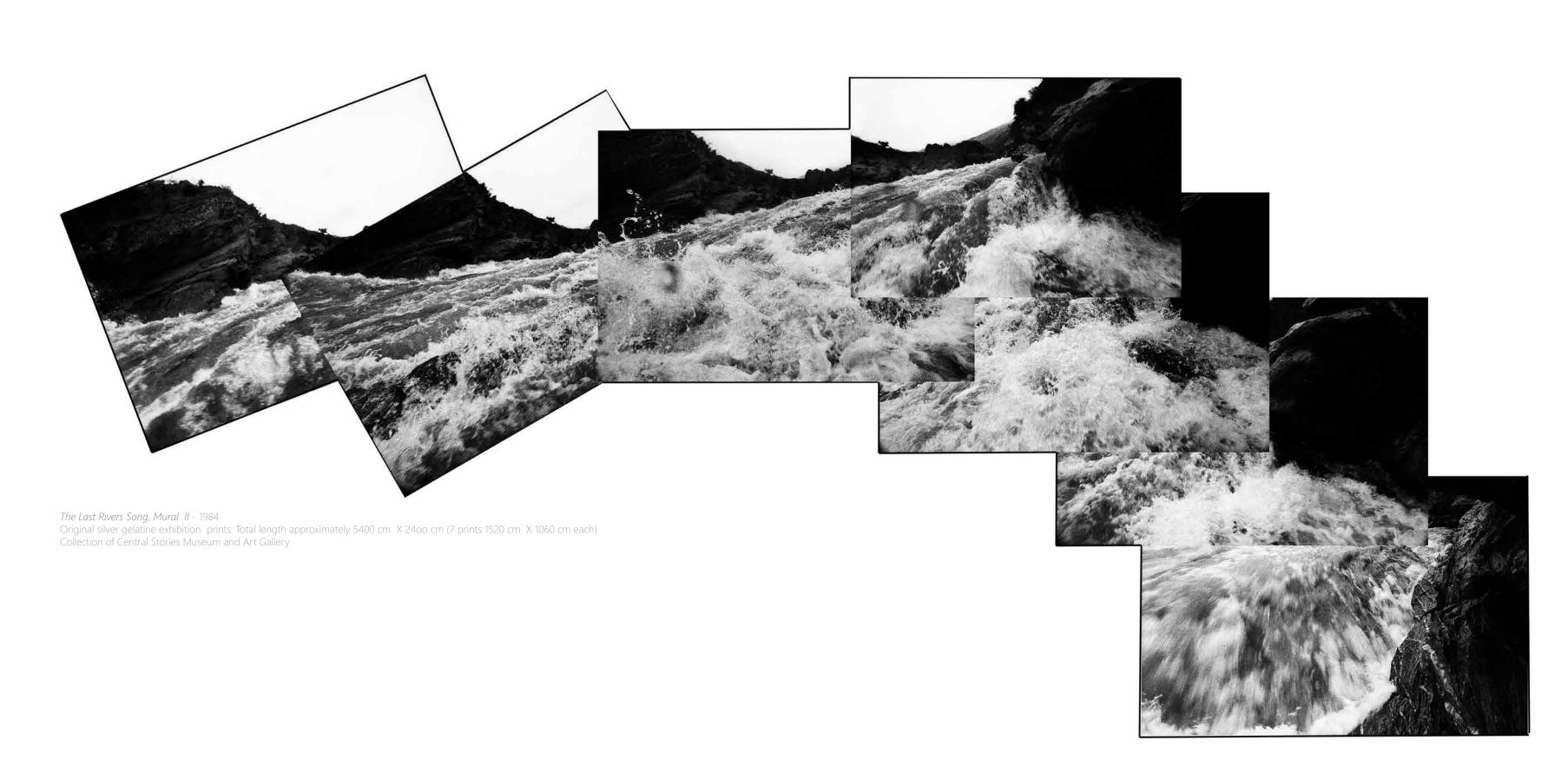
The Last Rivers Song, New Mural VIII - 1984
This work was not part of the original mural series but was added as a composite in recent years







The Last Rivers Song, New Mural IX - 1984
This work was not part of the original mural series but was added as a composite in recent years

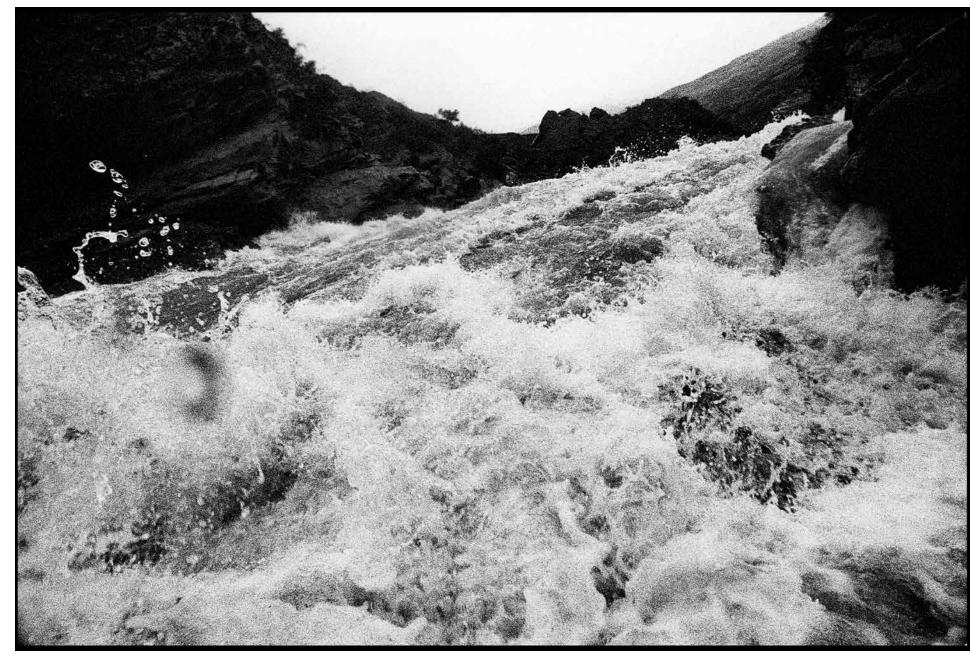




Detail - 1st image from left- *The Last Rivers Song, Mural II* - 1984 (a scream in every drop)



Detail - 2nd image from left- *The Last Rivers Song, Mural II* - 1984



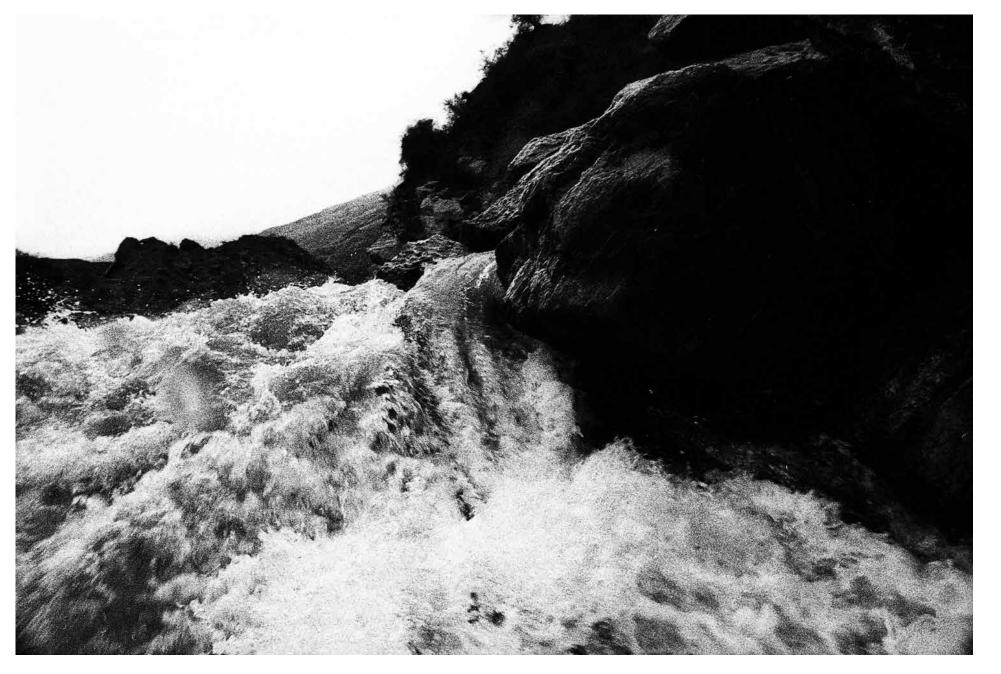
Detail - 3rd image from left- *The Last Rivers Song, Mural II* - 1984 (a scream in every drop)



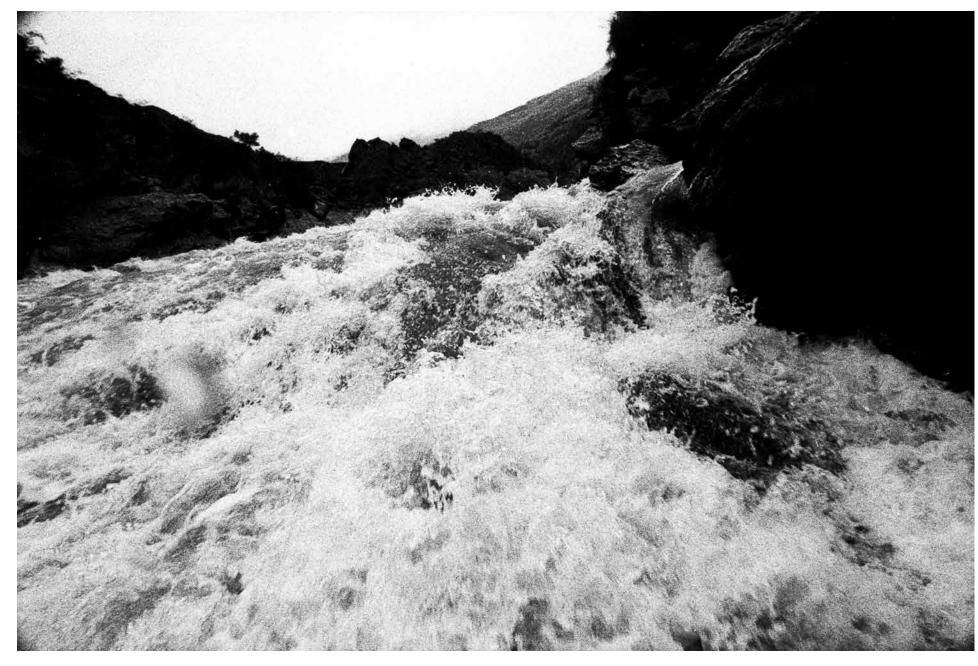
Enlargement of (a scream in every drop) - 3rd image from left- *The Last Rivers Song, Mural II* - 1984



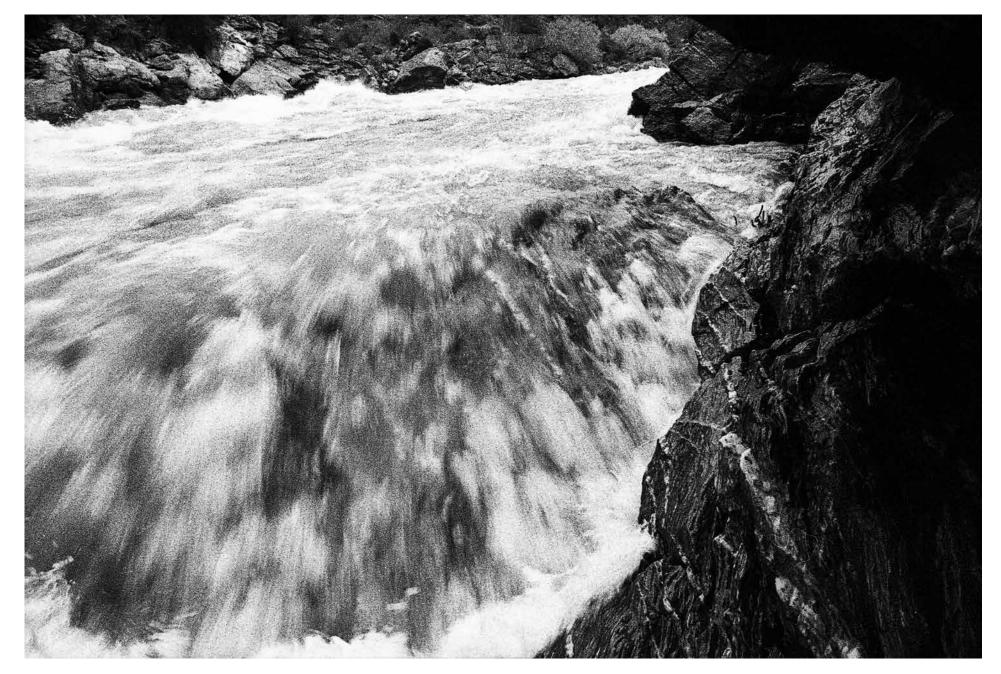
Detail - 4th image from left- *The Last Rivers Song, Mural II* - 1984



Detail - 5th image from left- *The Last Rivers Song, Mural II* - 1984



Detail - 6th image from left- The Last Rivers Song, Mural II - 1984



Detail - 7th image from left- The Last Rivers Song, Mural II - 1984





Detail - left image - The Last Rivers Song, Mural III - 1984



Detail - 2nd left image - The Last Rivers Song, Mural II - 1984



Detail - 3rd left image - The Last Rivers Song, Mural III - 1984



Detail - 4th left image - The Last Rivers Song, Mural II - 1984



Detail - 5th left image - *The Last Rivers Song, Mural III* - 1984

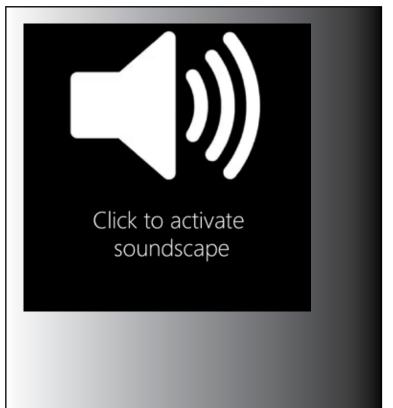


Detail - 6th left image - The Last Rivers Song, Mural II - 1984



Trevor Coleman and Paul Hutchins played at the Dunedin Public Art Gallery opening of The Last Rivers Song. A loop of the music was played into the gallery on a continuous basis for the duration of the exhibi-

Listen to the Last Rivers Song original sound-scape composed by Trevor Coleman and Paul Hutchins for The Last Rivers Song.





Installation of Clutha Mural Works, Dunedin Public Art Gallery 1984





Installation of Clutha Mural Works, Dunedin Public Art Gallery 1984





Installation of Clutha Mural I, Dunedin Public Art Gallery 1984 - Center print is gold toned with gold from the Clutha River. - see technical information

Detail center print, Installation of Clutha Mural I, Dunedin Public Art Gallery 1984 - print is gold toned with gold from the Clutha River- see technical information

As with Aramoana, the Clutha River was also a place of family nostalgia, a place I had emotional possession and one I belonged to.

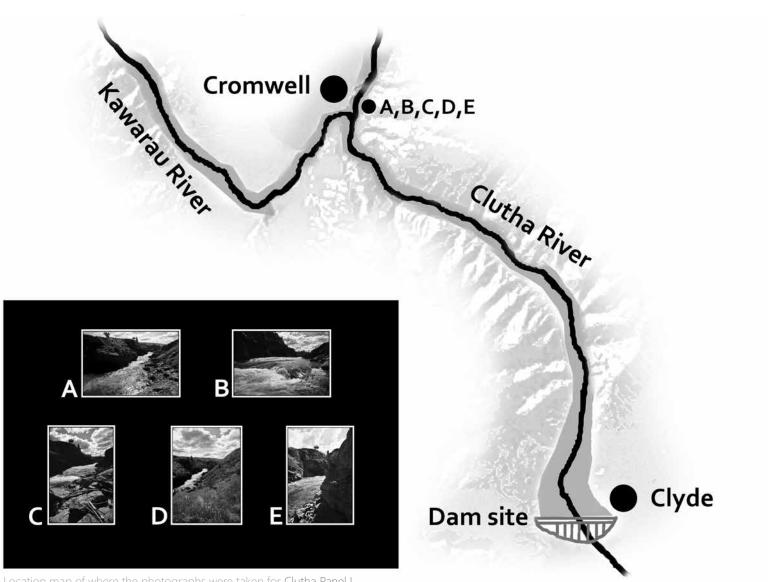
The Last Rivers Song

photographs from the Clutha Panels

The Clutha Panels, were much smaller than the mural composites, with the original 13 panels consisted of 63,180 x 120 mm SG prints - from 3 - 8 photographs in each panel. The images in the book are from scans from the original negatives and are placed in a similar format to the 1984 panels.



The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel I - 1984 Original work (5 - S.G. prints 180 x120 mm)



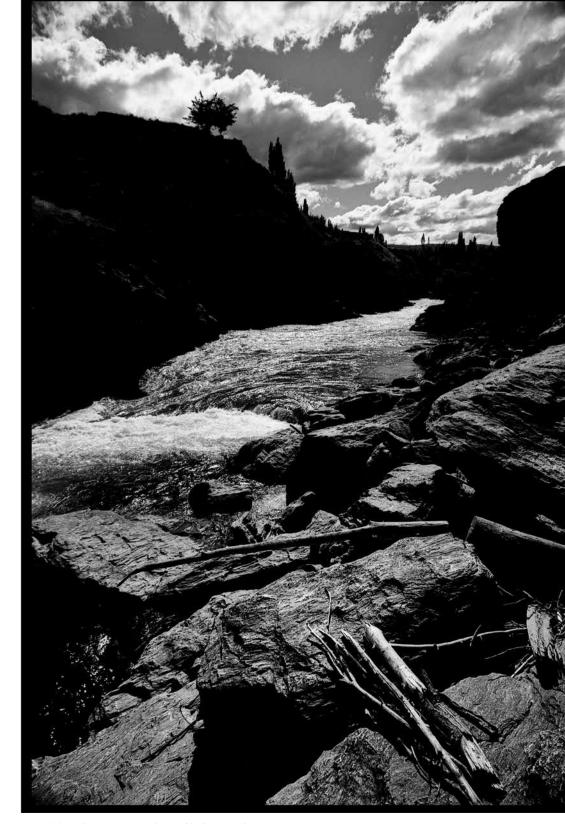
Location map of where the photographs were taken for Clutha Panel I



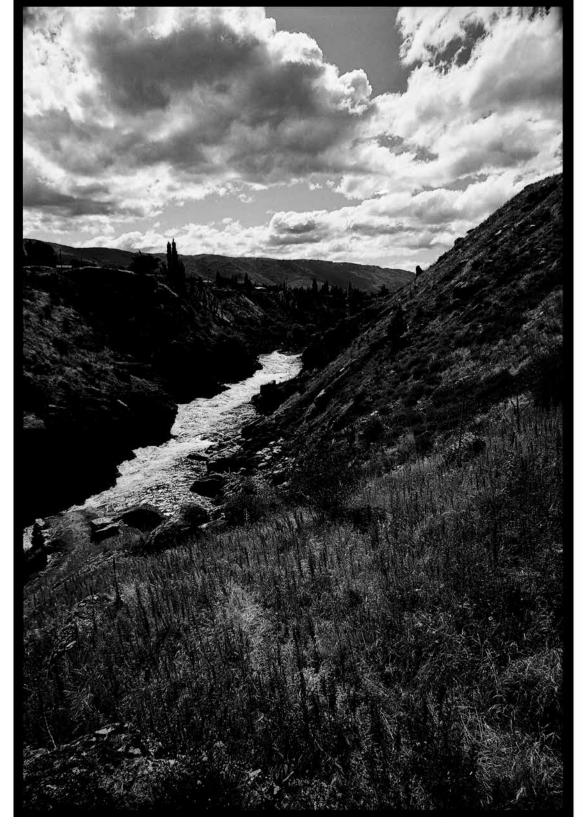
Detail A - The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel I - 1984



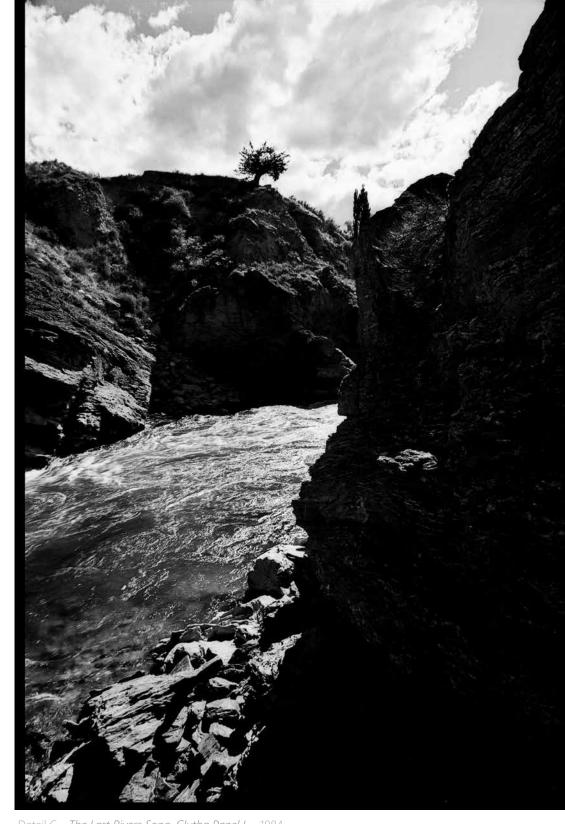
Detail B - The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel I - 1984



Detail C - The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel I - 1984



Detail D - The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel I - 1984

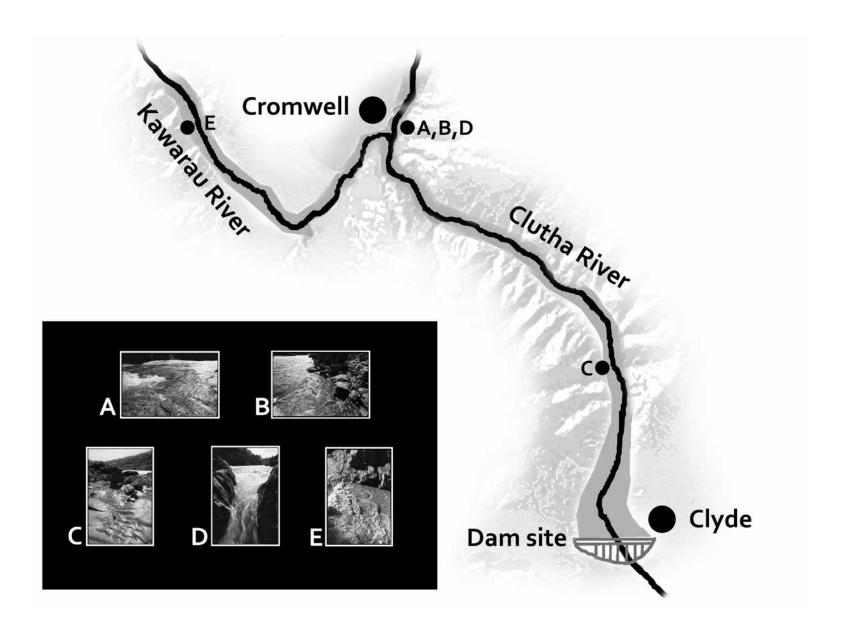


Detail C - The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel I - 1984

And over the summers it was a wild place I had always spent hours entranced, watching the water spin and curl in the blue magic, its immeasurable depths and white rapids, it was a place where I had witnessed the evidence of hard rock torn away by the softness of water, it was a place where the surge of water pushed a land locked surf, a place where the river pounded off down the gorge sucking every drop of water from the black tarns high in the mountains, from the melting winter snows above.



The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel II - 1984 Original work (5 - S.G. prints 180 x120 mm)

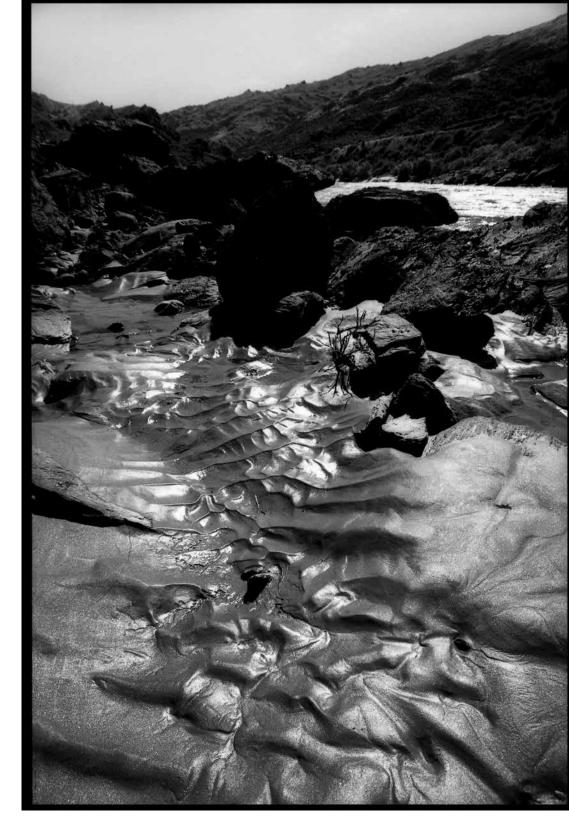




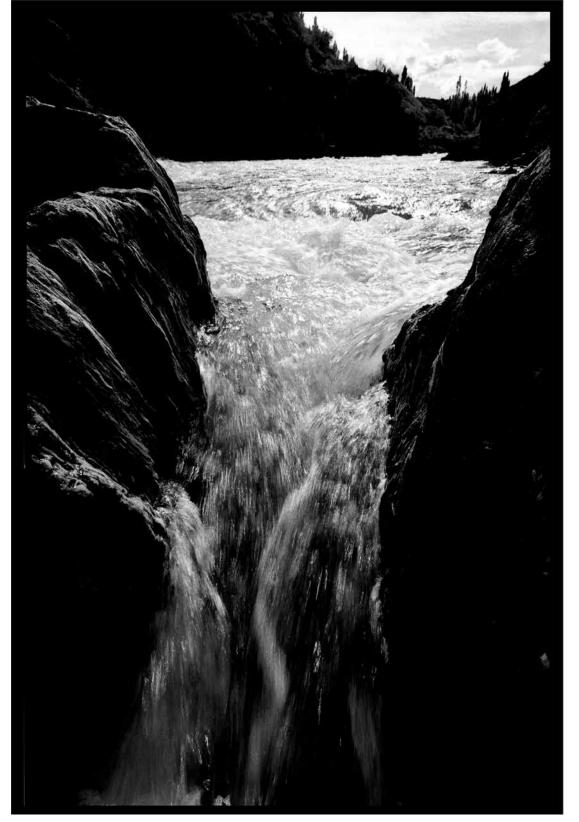
Detail A - The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel II - 1984



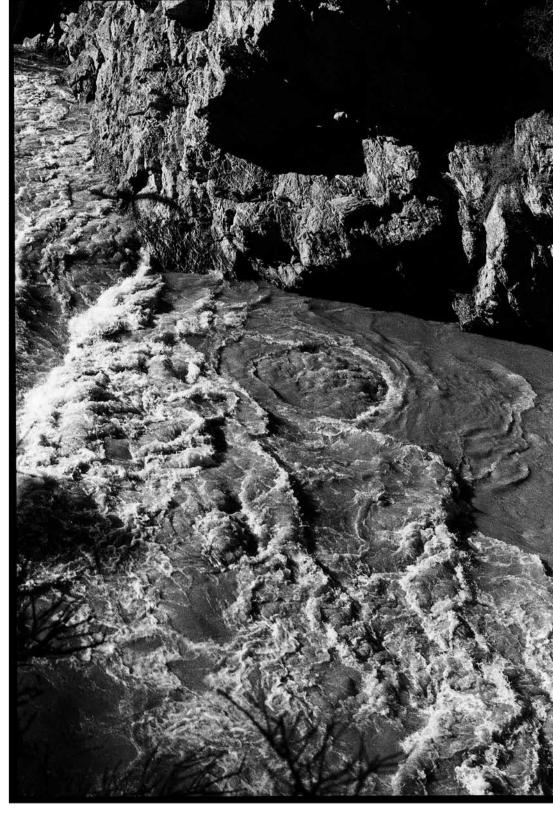
Detail B - The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel II - 1984



Detail C - The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel II - 1984



Detail D - The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel II - 1984

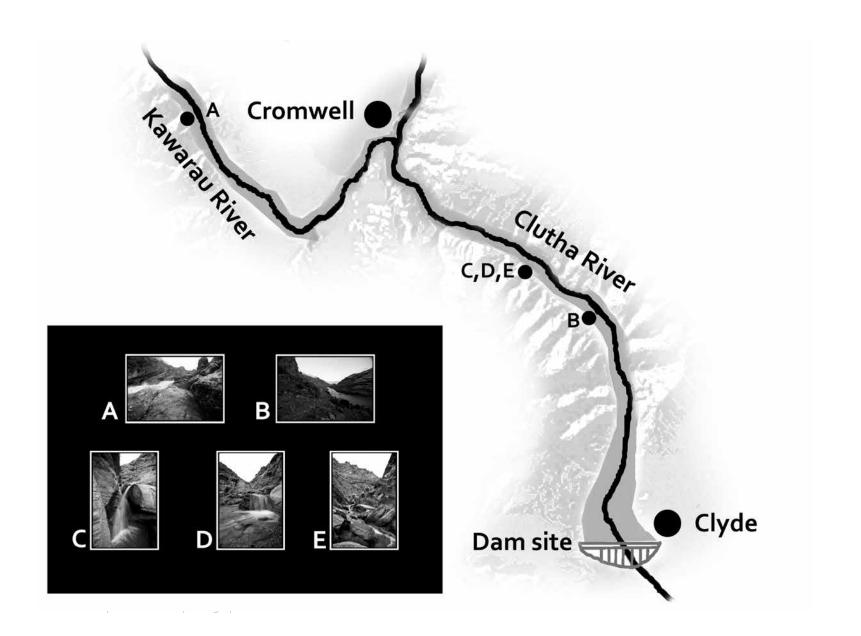


Detail C - The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel II - 1984

But from my very first visit to this environment, I also sensed that here in these canyons was something of a primeval New Zealand: a quintessence that only the initiated could perceive, a darker mysterious side to the landscape that opposed the colourful popular post card images of yellow poplar trees, blue water, the iconic meeting of the waters at Cromwell, the delicate cultivation of the orchards, the cheerful escape of a summer vacation.



The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel IX - 1984 Original work (5 - S.G. prints 180 x120 mm)





Detail A - The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel IX - 1984



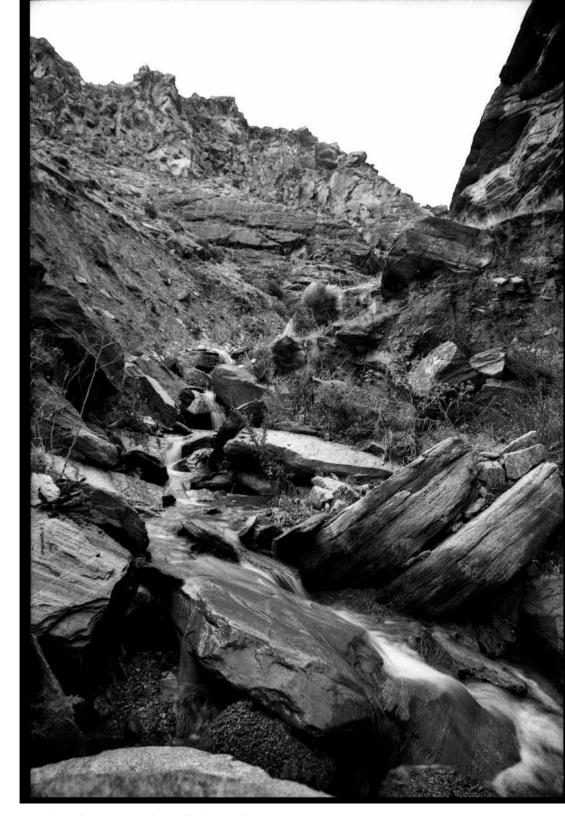
Detail B - The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel IX - 1984



Detail C - The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel IX - 1984



Detail D - The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel IX - 1984



Detail E - The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel IX - 1984

The Last River's Song - 1984

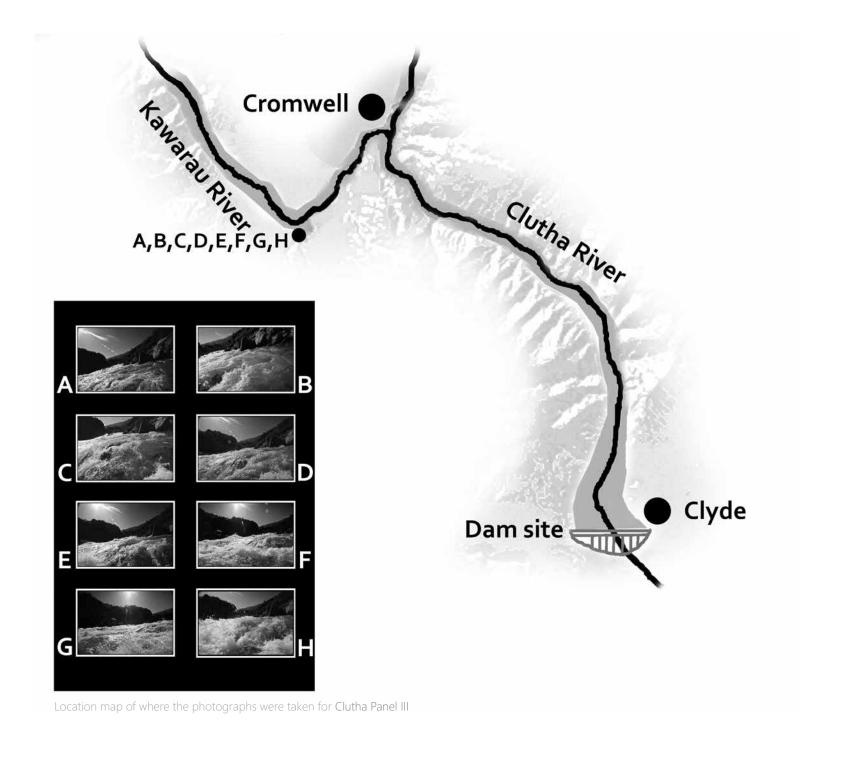
Gone! the swirling vortexes, the fly of spray, the suck and the spit!

Gone! the rapids' roar, the everchanging eddies and the crash of foam!

Gone! the gentle lap of a river at her bank and the violence of her flood!
Gone! A River's Song!'



The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel III - 1984
Original work (8 - prints S.G. Prints 180 x120 mm)
View an <u>animated sequence</u> of photographs shot for this work.

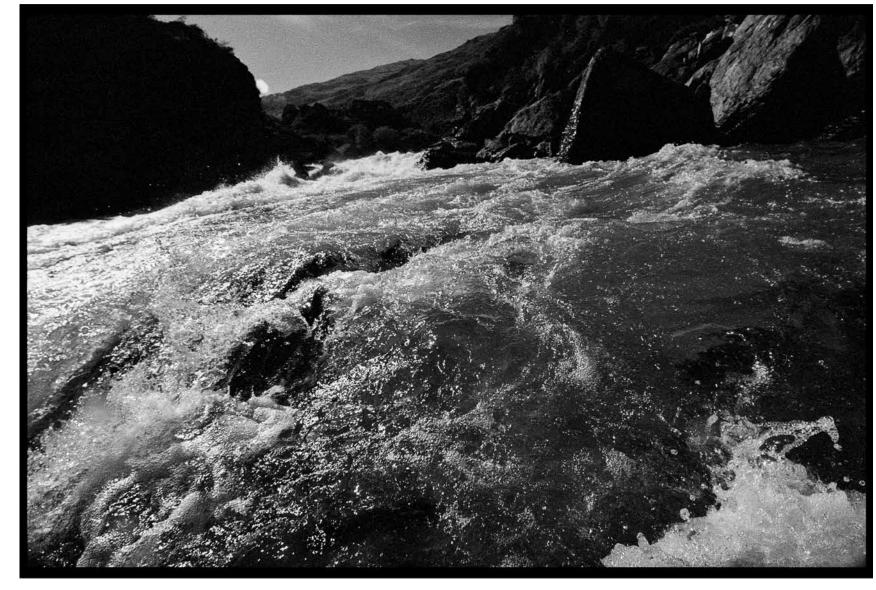




Detail A - The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel III - 1984



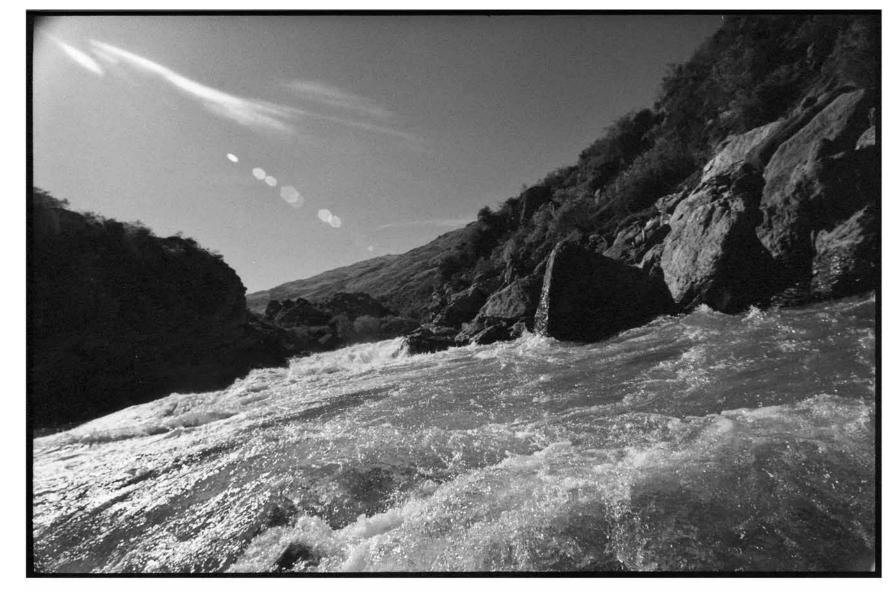
Detail B - The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel II - 1984



Detail C - The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel III - 1984



Detail D - The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel II - 1984



Detail E - The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel III - 1984



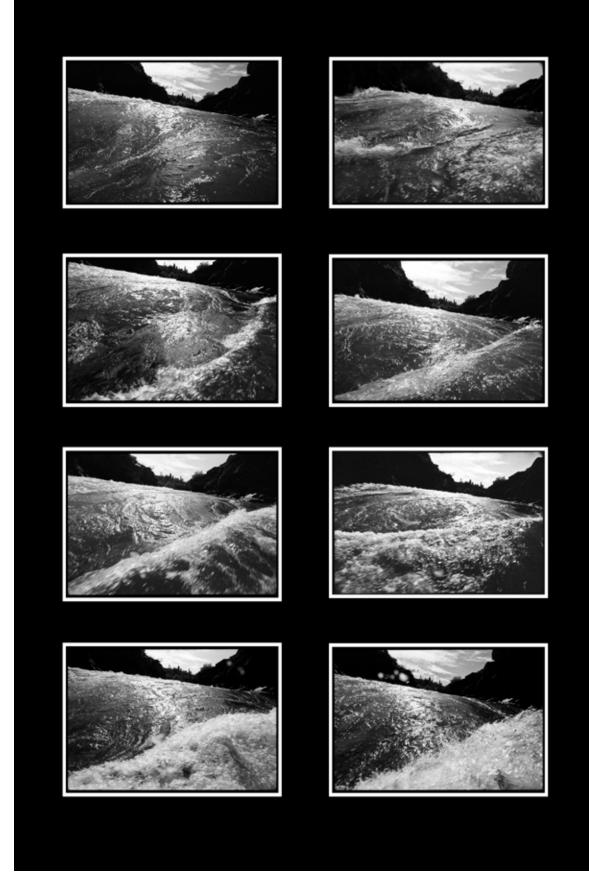
Detail F - The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel II - 1984



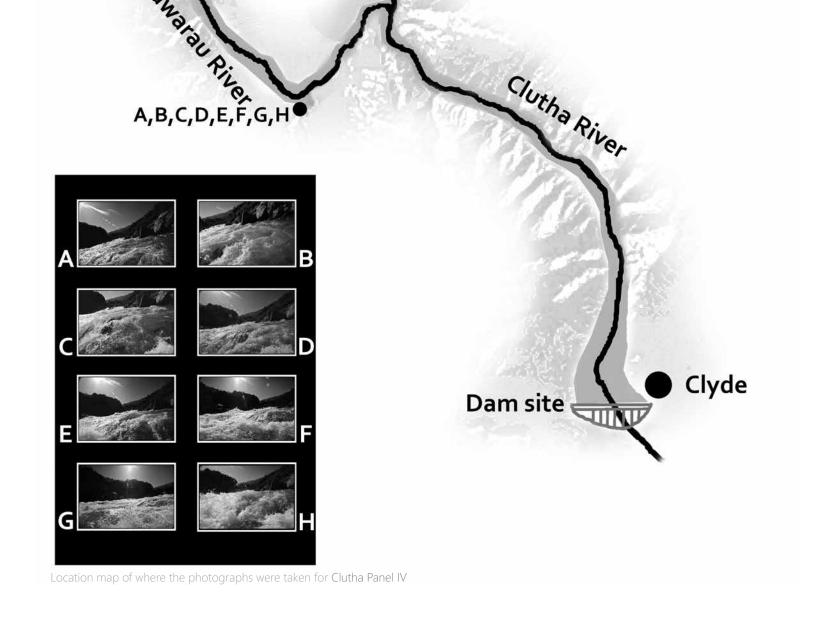
Detail G - The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel III - 1984



Detail H - The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel II - 1984



The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel IV - 1984
Original work (8 - prints S.G. Prints 180 x120 mm)
View an animated sequence of photographs shot for this work.



Cromwell



Detail A - The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel IV - 1984



Detail B - *The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel IV -* 1984



Detail C - The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel IV - 1984



Detail D - *The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel IV* - 1984



Detail E - The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel IV - 1984



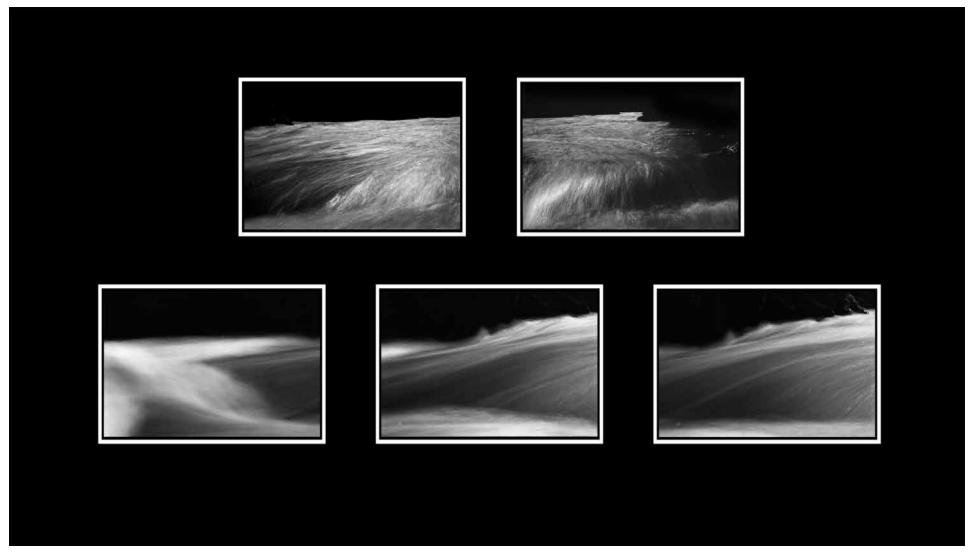
Detail F - The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel IV - 1984



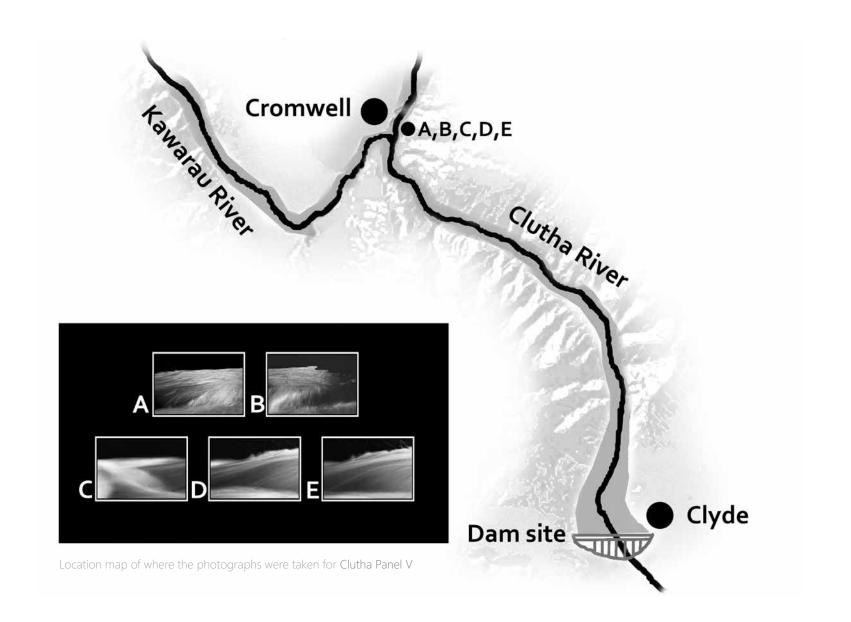
Detail G - The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel IV - 1984

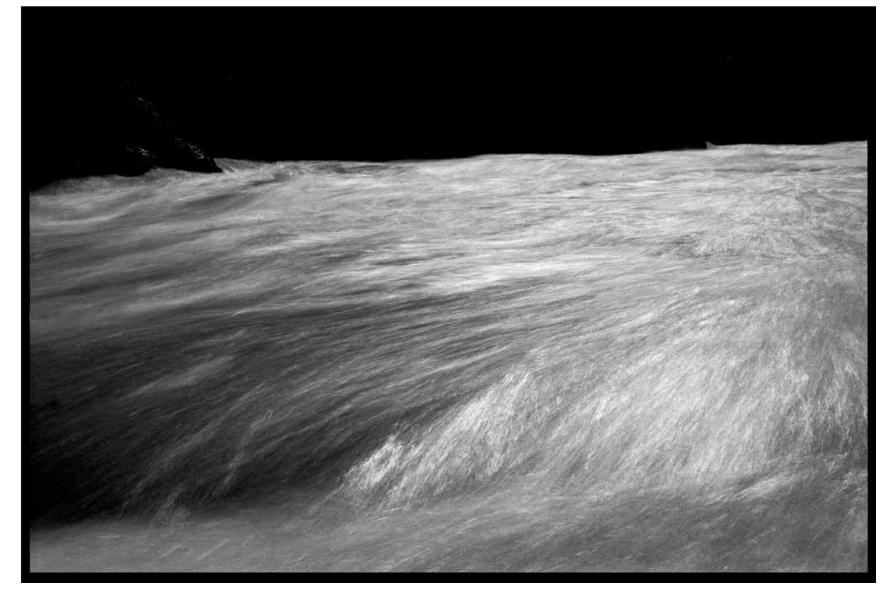


Detail H - The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel IV - 1984



The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel V - 1984 Original work (5 - S.G. prints 180 x120 mm)

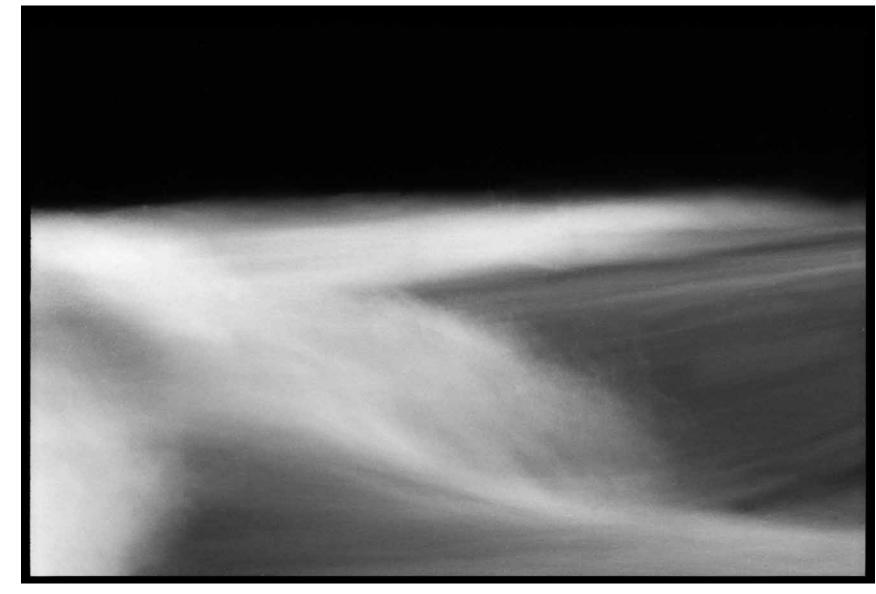




Detail A - The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel V - 1984



Detail B - *The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel V* - 1984



Detail C - *The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel V -* 1984

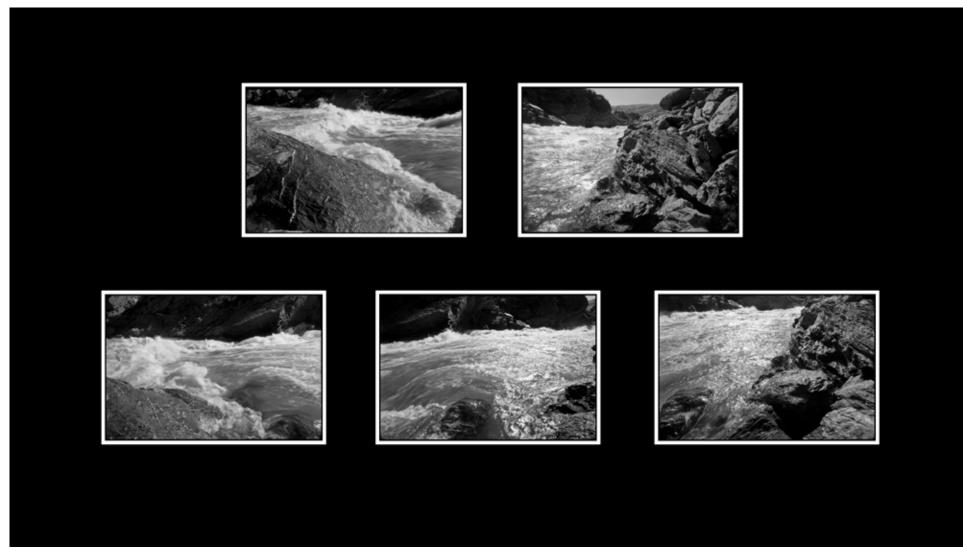


Detail D - The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel V - 1984

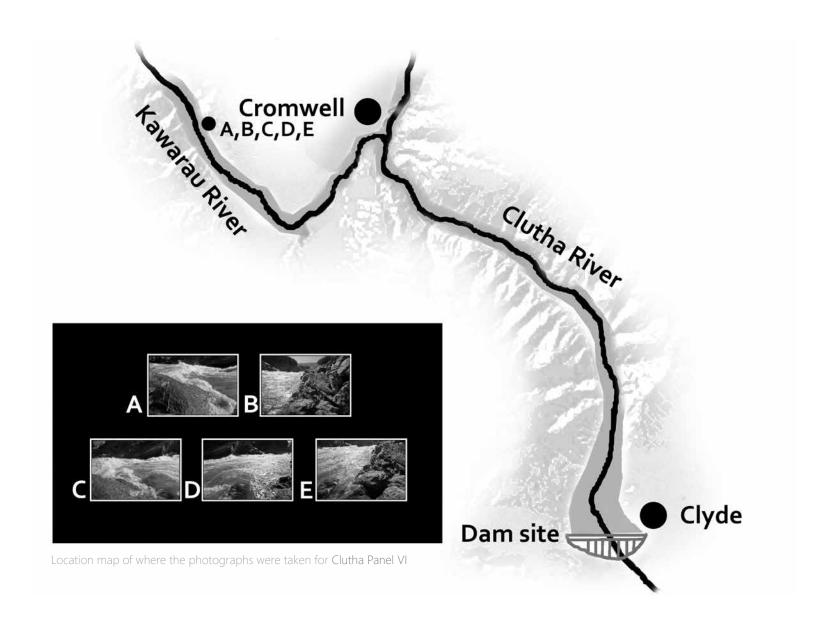


Detail E - The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel V - 1984

Initially I researched the area to be affected and from the relevant information, mapped out the boundaries my project should investigate, discovered the creeks, streams, the rocks, bluffs, sweeping currents, swirling eddies that would disappear under the proposed hydro lake.



The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel VI - 1984 Original work (5 - S.G. prints 180 x120 mm)





Detail A - The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel VI - 1984



Detail B - The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel VI - 1984



Detail C - The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel VI - 1984

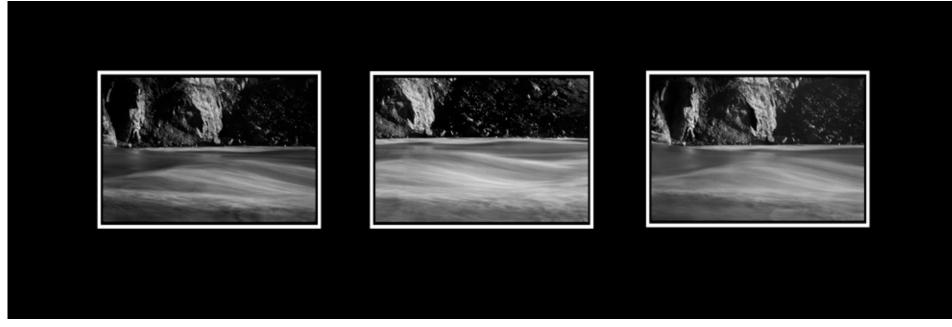


Detail D - The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel VI - 1984

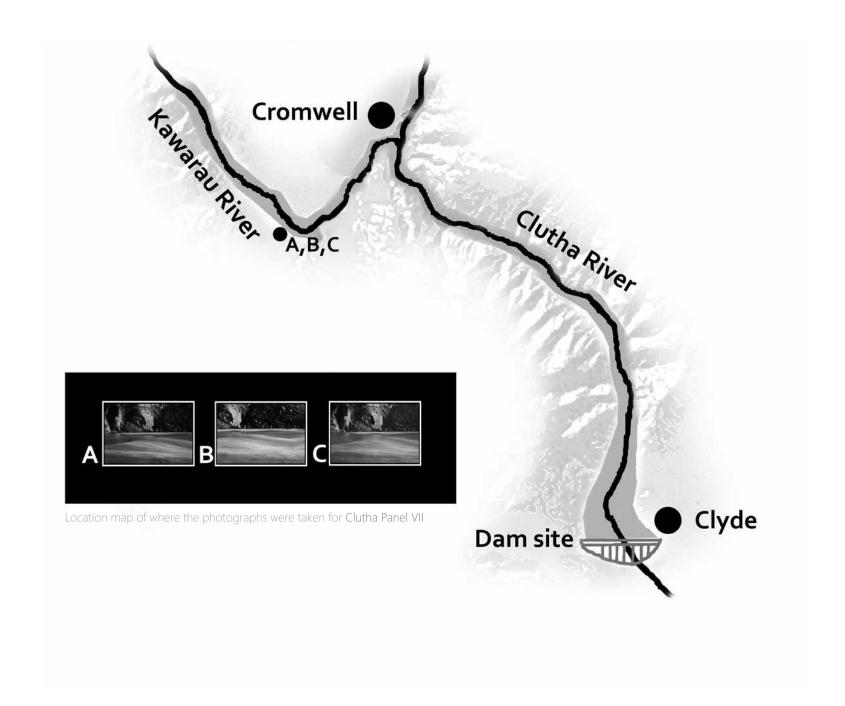


Detail E - The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel VI - 1984

I spent winter days with a river in full flood as the sleet turned colder to snow and spun shrapnellike from the sky to merge with leaping splashes which hold a scream in every drop of river water thrown skyward from the turbulent rapids.



The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel VII - 1984 Original work (5 - S.G. prints 180 x120 mm)



GODMAN projects CONTENTS



Detail A - The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel VII - 1984



Detail B - The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel VII - 1984

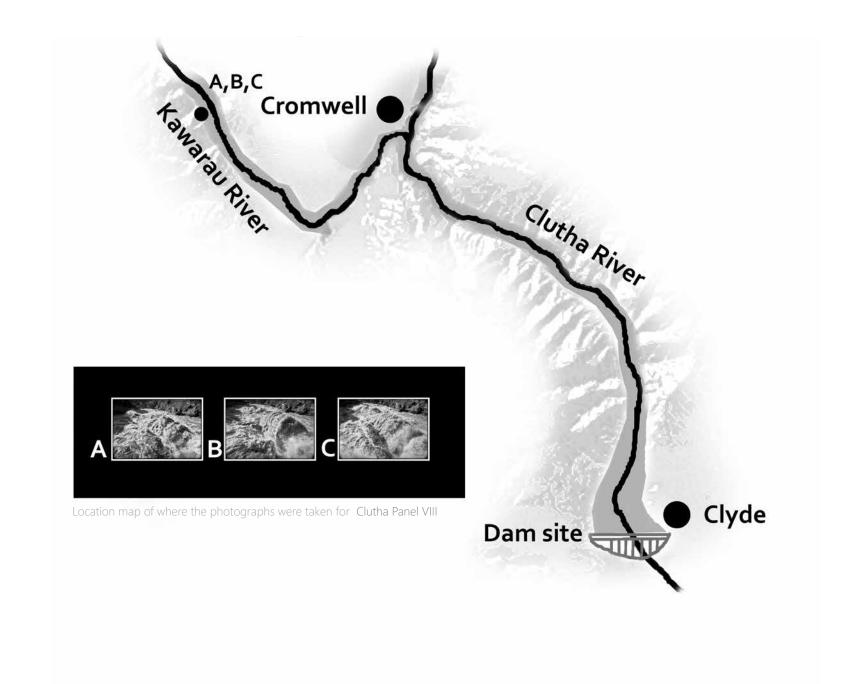


Detail C - The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel VII - 1984

I climbed and crawled over the raw boulder-strewn banks of both sides of the rivers, I witnessed the work of water and ice, sheer chasms cut in the rock over thousands of years, the huge boulders tossed down the gorge like broken marbles



The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel VIII - 1984 Original work (5 - S.G. prints 180 x120 mm)



GODMAN projects CONTENTS

The Last Rivers Song photographs from the Clutha Panels



Detail A - The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel VIII - 1984



Detail B - The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel VIII - 1984

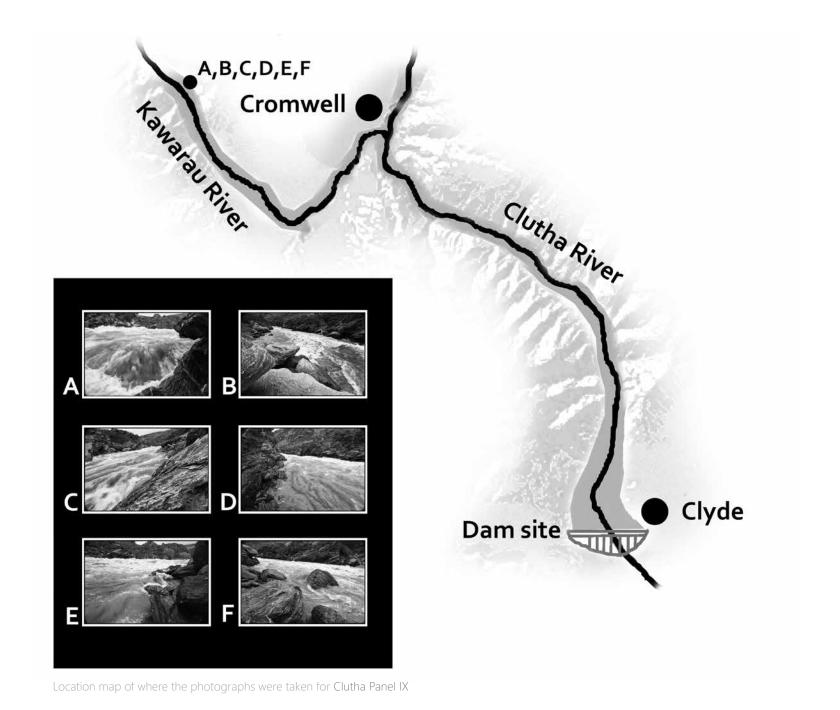


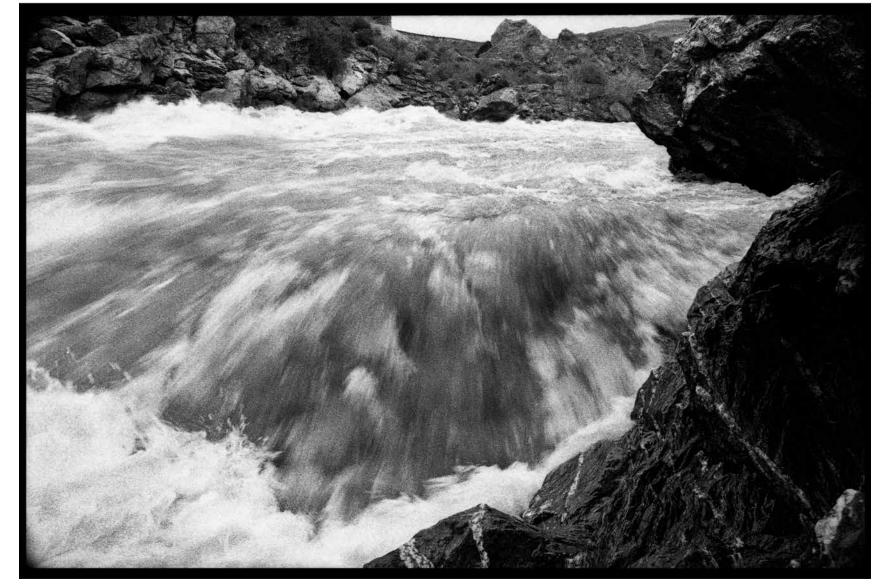
Detail C - The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel VIII - 1984

For me the true essence of this river was the relentless force of the water, the unification of rain drops, melting snow flakes and ice into a potent force, seeping slowly from the frozen heights into ever growing trickles, babbling brooks, tumbling steams, racing creeks, small rivers channeled by the hardness of the bare rocks into the third fastest flowing river in the world.

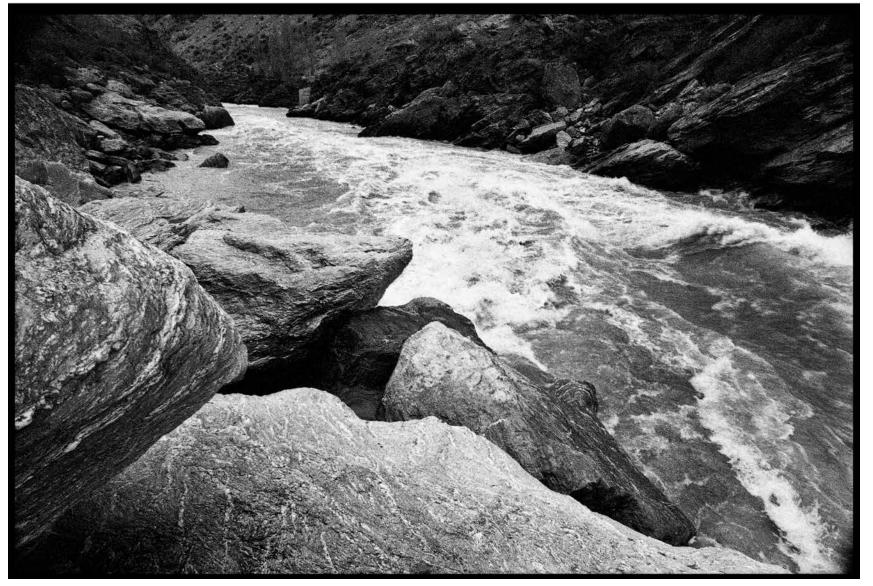


The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel IX - 1984 Original work (6 - S.G. Prints 180 x120 mm)





Detail A - The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel X - 1984



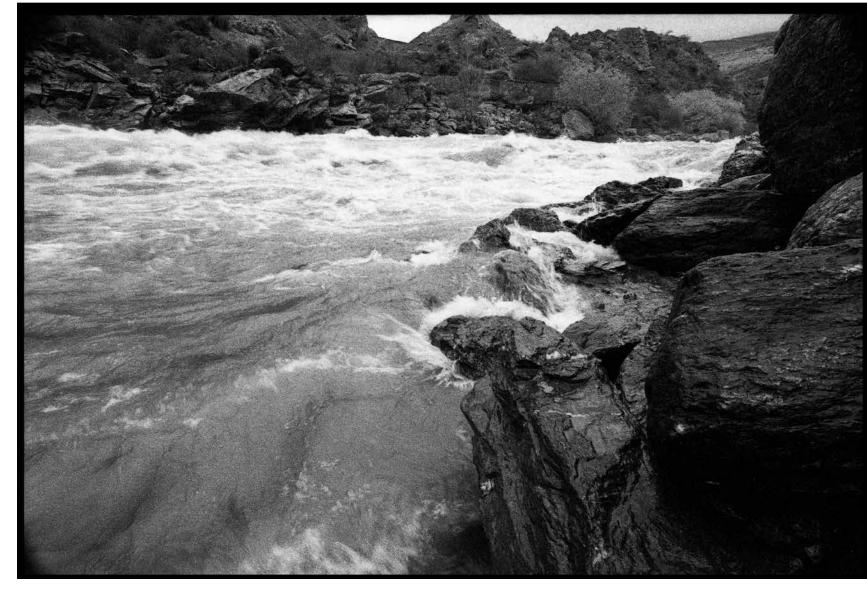
Detail B - The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel X - 1984



Detail C - The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel X - 1984



Detail D - The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel X - 1984



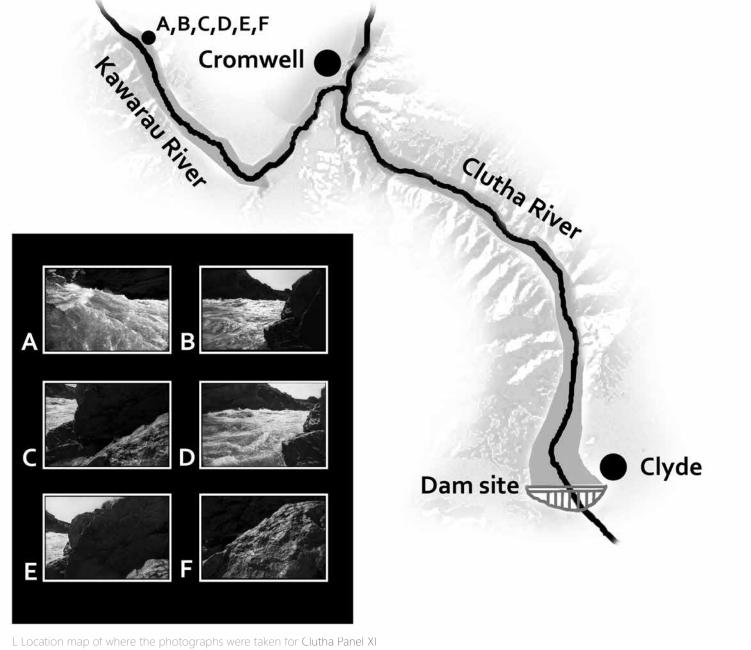
Detail E - *The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel X* - 1984



Detail F - *The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel X -* 1984



The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel XI - 1984 Original work (6 - S.G. Prints 180 x120 mm)





Detail A - The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel XI - 1984



Detail B - The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel XI - 1984



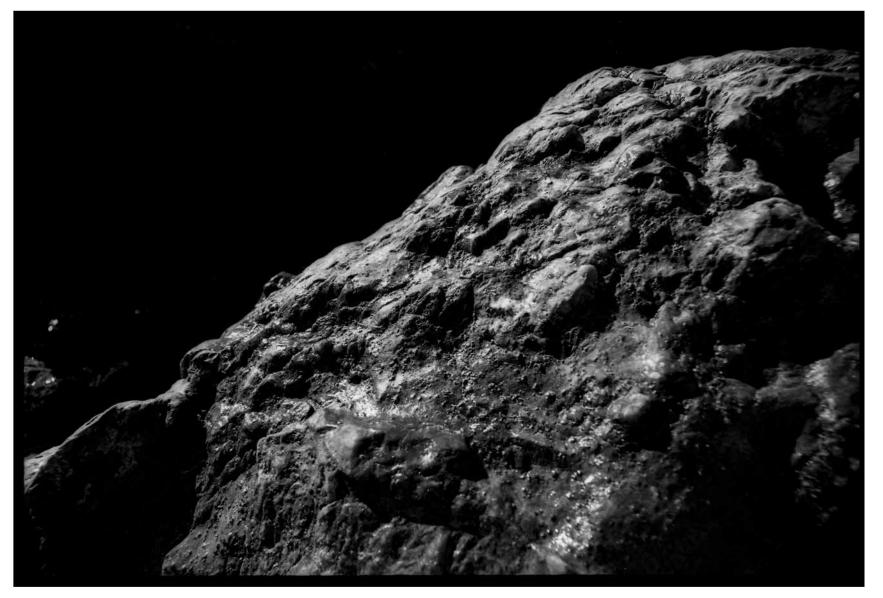
Detail C - The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel XI - 1984



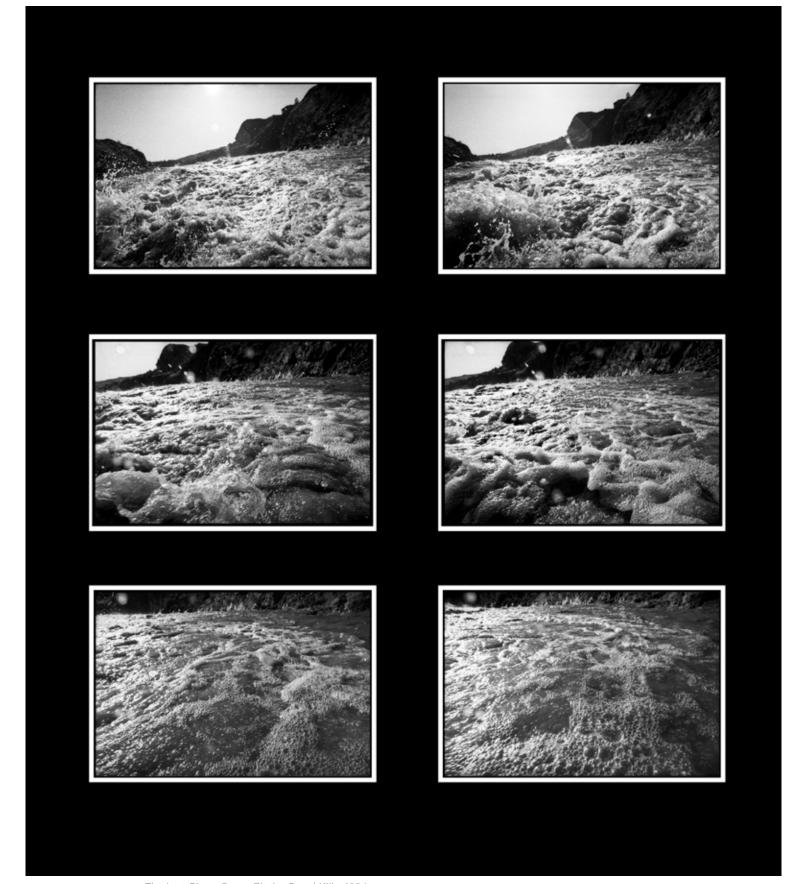
Detail D - The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel XI - 1984

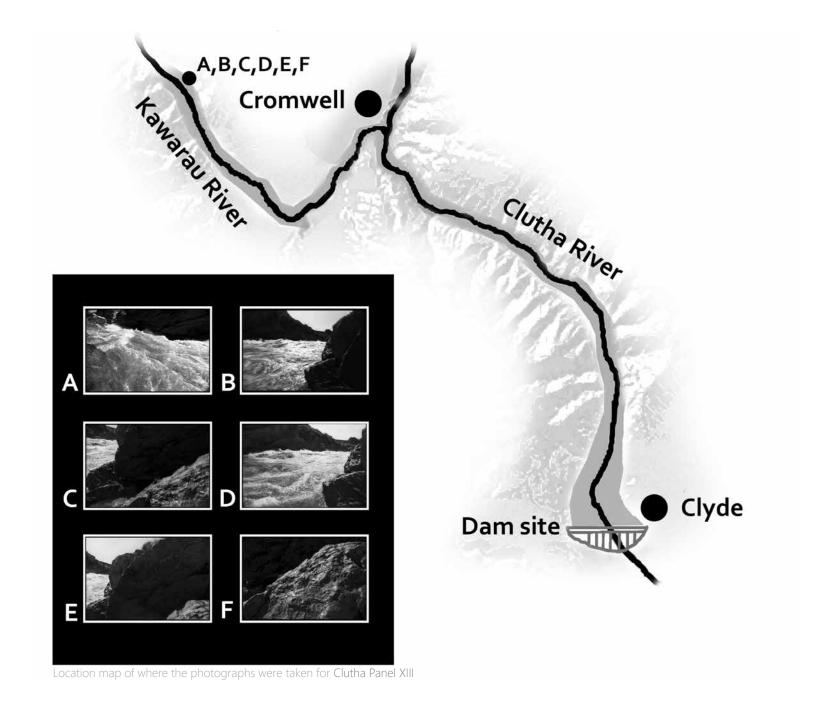


Detail E - The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel XI - 1984



Detail F - The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel XI - 1984







Detail A - The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel XIII - 1984



Detail B - The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel XIII - 1984



Detail C - The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel XIII - 1984



Detail D - The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel XIII - 1984



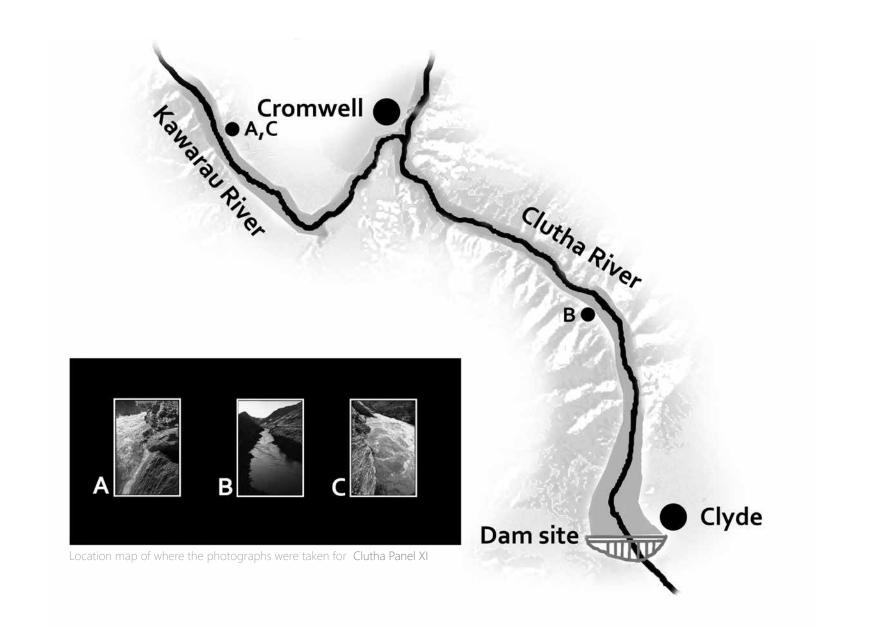
Detail E - The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel XIII - 1984

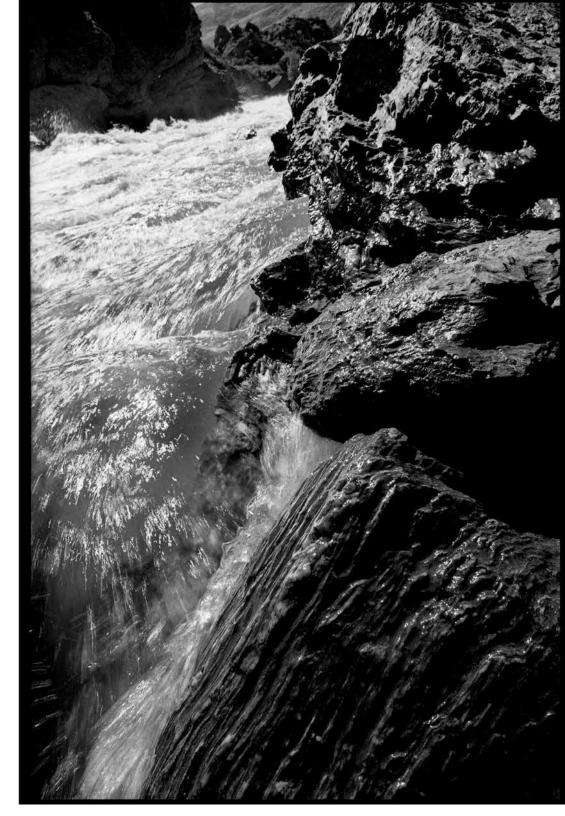


Detail F - The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel XIII - 1984

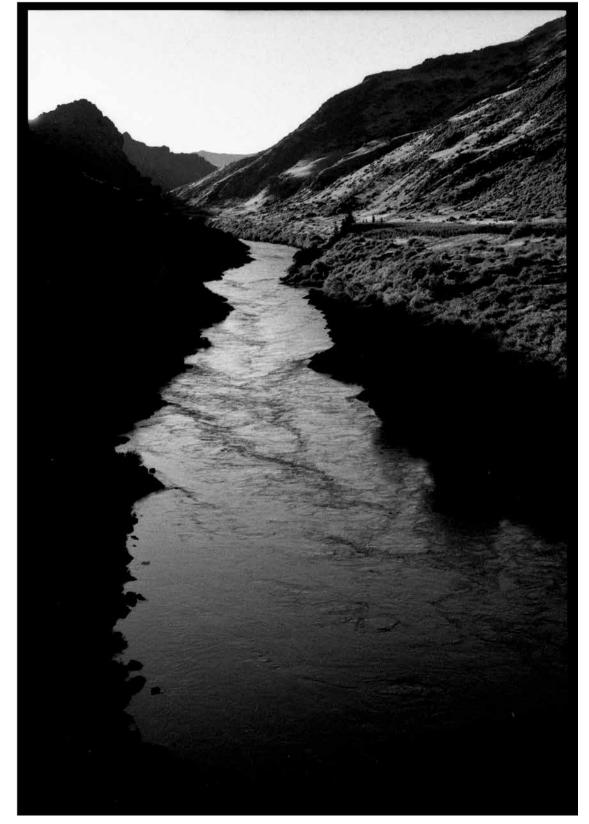


The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel XII - 1984 Original work (5 - S.G. prints 180 x120 mm)

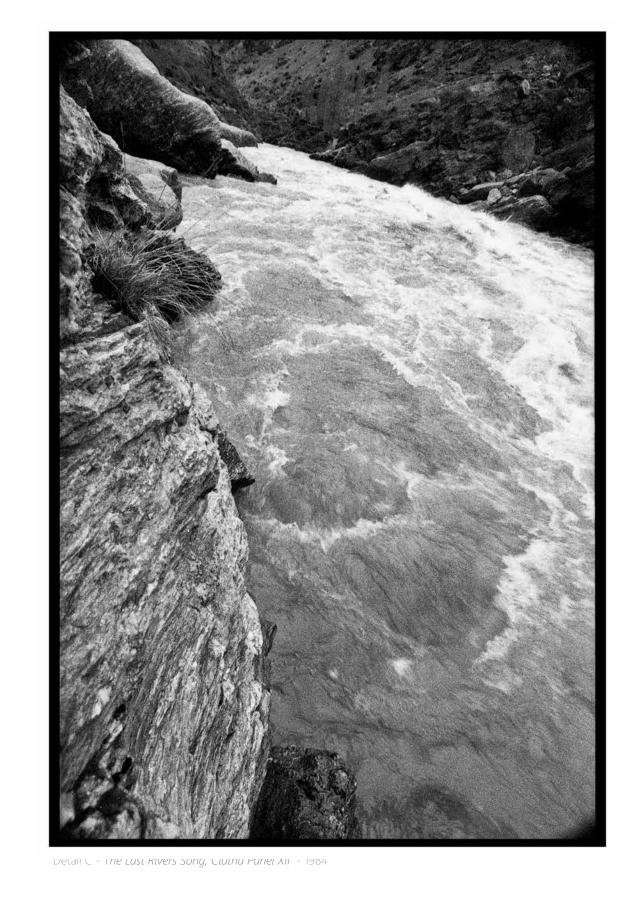




Detail A - The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel XII - 1984



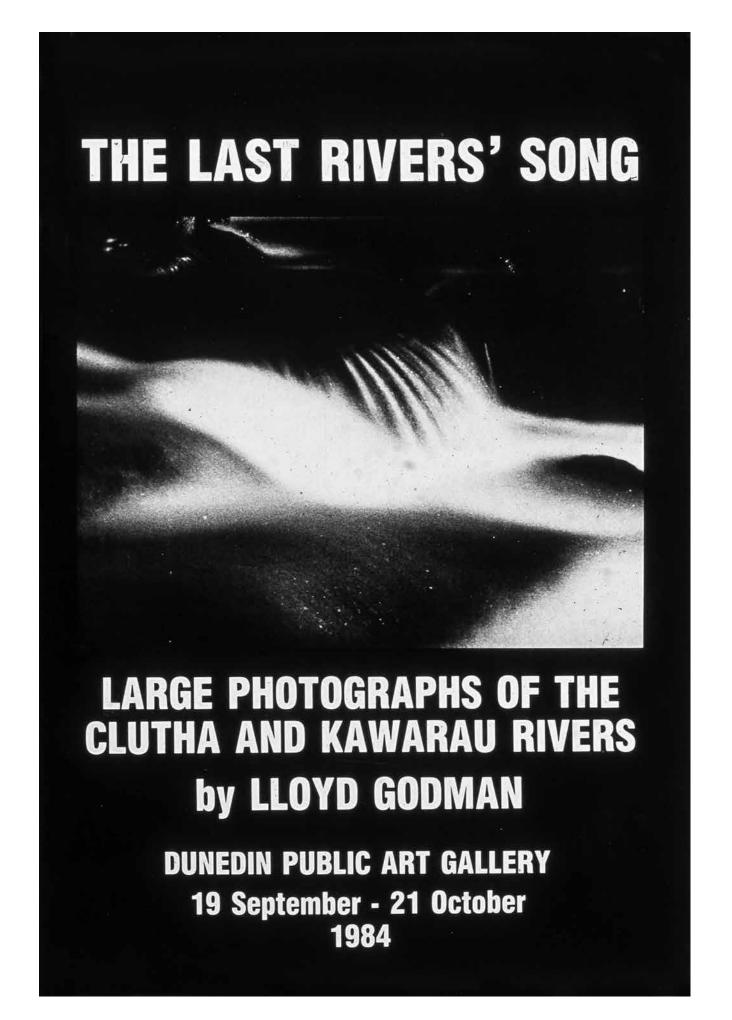
Detail B - The Last Rivers Song, Clutha Panel XII - 1984

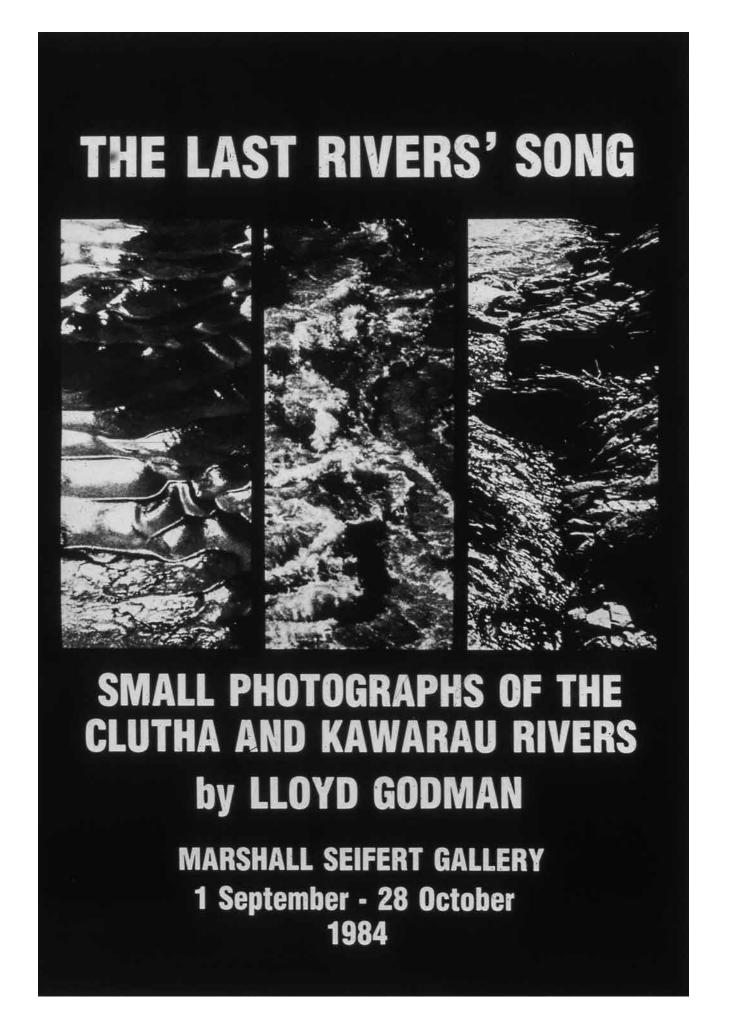


I also discovered there was more at stake than just the flooding of the "Clutha River", for quite a stretch of the Kawarau branch that converges at Cromwell and runs down from Queenstown and Lake Wakitipu would be stilled by the high-dam too, the filling lake was to push up the reaches of not one but two rivers...

The Last Rivers Song

Posters Designed by Jack Squires





The Last Rivers Song

Exhibitions

2014

• Deakin University Art Gallery, Lloyd Godman: A PHOTO: synthetic pathway, Melbourne, Australia

1985

- Hewlett Packard building wellington
- The Last Rivers Song, (large & small works with music), Southland Museum and Art Gallery, Invercargill, N,Z.
- DOC head quarters Wanaka, N,Z.
- Olivers Restaurant Clyde, N,Z.
- 23 + Photographers, Cultural Centre, Wellington, New Zealand

1984

- *The Last Rivers Song, (small works), Marshall Seifert Gallery, Dunedin, New Zealand
- The Last Rivers Song, (large works with music), Dunedin Public Art Gallery, Dunedin, New Zealand

Collections

Dunedin Public Art Gallery, Dunedin N.Z
Te Papa Tongarewa - Museum of New Zealand, Wellington, N.Z.
Central Stories Museum and Art Gallery, Alexandra, N.Z.
Tate Gallery, London - copy of Last Rivers Song book

The Last Rivers

Technical information

Cameras:

Nikon F2 - used for land based shots

Nikon EM with power winder - used for shots from a boom sus- panel photographs pended above the water, and those shot in the water with an under water camera housing

Linhof 4x5 Cardan Color - used to copy prints onto 4 x5 film for the mural enlargements

Lenses:

20mm f3.8 Vivitar 50mm f1.8 Nikon series E 55mm f1.2 Nikkor SC 135mm f2.8 Nikkor Q 150mm f f.6 Symmar

Filters:

K2 Yellow YA2 Orange 25A Red

Neutral Density x2, x4, x8 - these were used combined for the time lapse shots in bright sunlight

Exposures:

from 2min @ f22 to 1/2000 @ f5.6

Films:

sheet film

ASA Ratings:

3 ISO to 1800 ISO

Developers:

Michrophen, ID11, Perceptol, P.Q Universal, Tech Pan LC

Photographic paper:

Kodak Mural Paper R3 used for mural prints Ilfobrom used for small

Technique:

All photographs were first shot on location at the river with 35mm film using a variety of approaches:

Time Exposure:

Tech Pan film and Pan F were down rated. Tech pan from 12 ISO to 3 ISO and Pan From 50 ISO to 25 ISO. These time lapse exposures were created but using a stack of neutral density filters which allowed exposures of 2 minutes at f22 in bright sunlight with the camera on a tripod in the shallows of the river. The technique was used for the images in Mural IV and Mural V and in Panels V, IIV, and threes prints in Panel IX and gave a timeless effect of the water flowing over the rocks.

Stop Motion Exposure:

This involved up rating HP5 400 ISO film to 1800 ISO. This allowed exposures of 1/2000 sec to stop the action of the flowing water, in some exposures with drops of water suspended in the air. The technique was used for images in Mural II.

Soundscape:

The enigmatic electronic soundscape that accompanied the exhibition was specifically composed by Trevor Coleman & Paul Hutchins 35mm film Pan F, FP4, HP5, HP5 72 shot Auto winder, Tech Pan 4x5 for the installation in 1984. This was lost for many years but in 2012 was found in a shoe box under Trevor's mothers bed. It can be found

http://www.lloydgodman.net/River/Info/sound.html

Trevor Coleman and Paul Hutchins played live at the opening in the Dunedin Public Art Gallery.



Gold Toning:

long and containing up to 7 prints 5'x 2 1/2'.

Selected prints from this series were gold toned with native gold dredged from the water of the Kawaura fused with the azure blue of the Clutha. Clutha River and donated to the project by Bob Gray. The gold dust was converted to gold chloride by Bob Cunningham from the Chemistry Dept at the University of Otago, and combined with other chemicals in such a manner as to produce either red and deep blue tones in the photographic prints. Two recipes were used for

(a) 5.23 9 thiousea

Note from Bob Cunningham on gold toning

the gold toning - one to produce deep blues, this was applied to the two outside The murals consisted of large composite photographic images up to 6-7metres prints of Mural III, and the second mixture was applied to a previously sepia toned print, the central image of Mural I, and reacted to produce, rich rusty reds. For me the colours referenced the meeting of the waters at Cromwell where the brown



Gold Toner Red

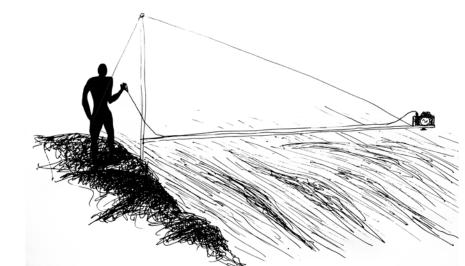
Prints are sepia toned by the bleach redevelop method first and then gold toned to produce brilliant red chalk tones on chloride chlorobrom papers. Prints must be well washed.

Vater 52 °C	750cc
mmonium Thiocyanate	105 grams
Gold Chloride 1% solution	60cc
Add cold water to make	1litre

Gold Toning Blue

Depending upon the desired tone, prints on bromide and variable contrast paper are tone 15-30 mins. Mix one part of each solution and 10 parts water. Prints must be well

Solution 1 Thiocarbamide(Thiourea) Water to make	14 grms 1 lit
Solution 2 Citric Acid Crystals	14 grms
Water to make	1litr
Solution 3 Gold Chloride	6 grar
Water to make	1 lit



Boom:

The Nikon EM was suspended with the power winder on a retractable boom about 3 meters long and set on auto exposure out and just above the river surface with a long pneumatic cable release from the camera back to the shore. An accurate record of the exposures was impossible to keep - but would probably range from 1/1000 sec to 1/30 sec. All these exposure were made using an auto exposure setting with the aperture set on f16 Or f22.



The light weight plastic bodied Nikon EM was ideal for mounting on the boom arm.



<u>subsequent work - Lake Fill Performances</u>

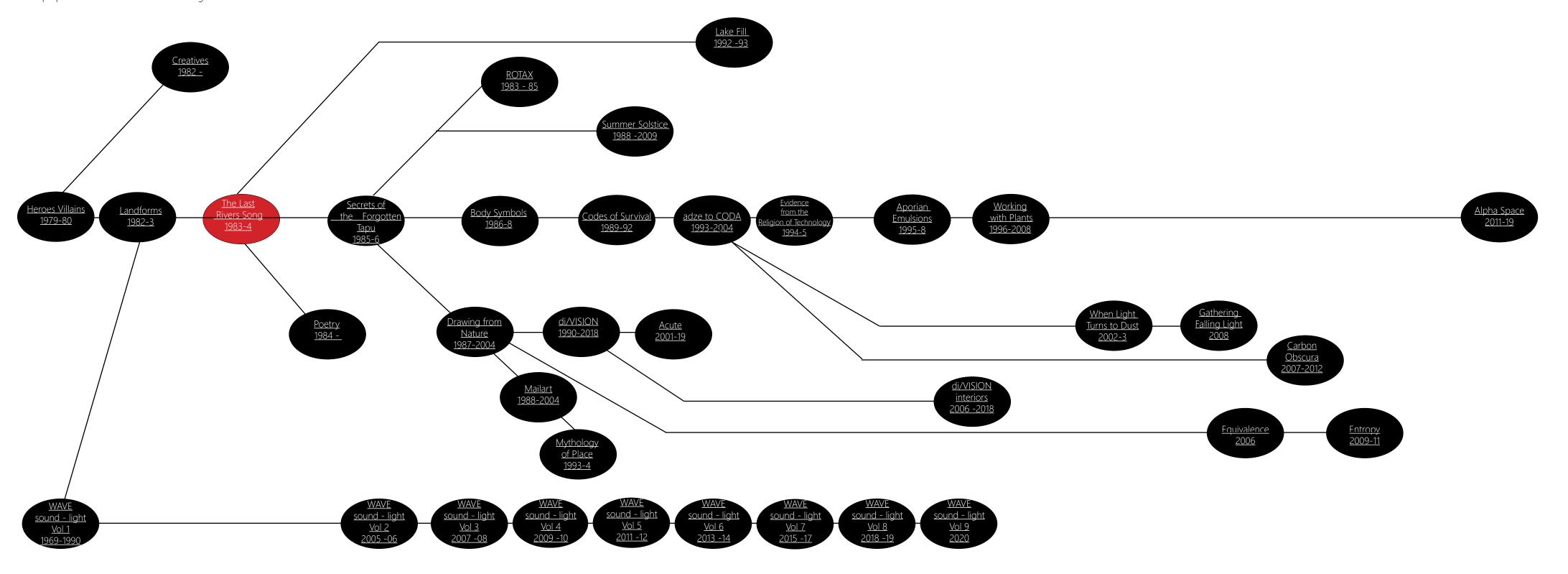
The Lake Fill series of performances followed the Last Rivers Song of 1983-4. By of the rising water were taken of a vista looking up the river which was slowly 1992 the construction work on the hydro dam Clyde had reached completion obliterated by the rising lake level. and Electrocrop were ready to fill Lake Dunstan.

Rather than engage in another series of photographs similar to those of Last Rivers Song, for the filling of Lake Dunstan, I had decided on a performance based work, a ritualistic ceremony at the very time the water was rising, the river dying, the lake growing. I completed 2 performances, one in 1992 & and a second in 1993. Each performance used photography as a key aspect in that photographs



Lloyd Godman Project Ebooks

gives free access to the large body of creative work by this artist. The schematic outlines the various projects and pinpoints where The *Last Rivers Song* sits within the oeuvre.



The Last Rivers Song presents a stunning series of photographs of the raw, natural, beauty of Clutha River and Kawarau Rivers before the filling of Lake Dunstan at the completion of the hydro dam at Clyde in Central Otago, New Zealand. The work offers an evocative portrait of a wild, free-flowing river that has been lost to hydro development.



Lloyd Godman has an MFA from RMIT University Melbourne (1999) and has had over 45 solo exhibitions and been included in more than 250 group exhibitions. He established and was head of the photo section at the School of Art Otago Polytechnic, New Zealand for 20 years before moving to Melbourne in 2005. He also instigated and helped organize several major arts events. Concern for the environmental is a resilient thread that has connected his many projects. The Last Rivers Song was the first series of work where this concern in the natural environment played a pivotal role.

In recent years Lloyd has shifted his art practice to work with living plant sculptures.



Lloyd Godman began his creative work in photo based projects which inspired an interest in light and later photosynthesis. He is now described as an ecological artist and Avant gardener. Lloyd has an MFA from RMIT University Melbourne (1999). He has had over 45 solo exhibitions and been included in more than 270 group exhibitions. He established and was head of the photo section at the School of Art Otago Polytechnic New Zealand for 20 years before moving to Melbourne in 2005. He now lives with his partner Tess Edwards at St Andrews where they help run the Baldessin Press.

"Lloyd Godman is one of a new breed of environmental artists whose work is directly influencing 'green' building design....."Godman's installations are the result of a unique blend of botanical science, environmental awareness and artistic expression. All three elements are intrinsic to the practical realisation of his polymathic vision".

John Power - Editor of Facility Management Magazine Aug 2011

Many of his projects have been published as <u>E books</u>

http://lloydgodman.net/Publications/books1.html



Lloyd Godman at Chris Brock's house kaikoura 1973

Fbook selection

Explore the <u>full selection of Ebooks</u> by Lloyd Godman

E book WORKSHOPS

These publications are designed in Adobe InDesign by Lloyd Godman. From time Lloyd offers workshops at the Basldessin Press where he lives on using InDesign to design and publish interactive E books. If you are an artist with a project you would like to publish the workshops provide a wonderful opportunity.

You can find information on this at the <u>Baldessin Press web site</u>.

Fine Art prints

With an extensive background in fine arts (over 40 solo exhibitions and 200 group exhibitions) Lloyd is able to offer limited edition fine art prints of many of the photographs in this publication. You can check out other art projects by Lloyd Godman here

Edition number: The archival prints are limited to an edition of three signed and numbered - once the edition is complete NO other prints are available There is also one artist copy for exhibition purposes.

Paper: All prints are printed on high quality archival rag paper

Pigments: The finest Epson pigments are used for all prints

Size: The image is printed on A2 paper (420 x 594 mm 16.5 x 23.4 in) with a suitable paper boarder to allow for framing

Framing: While framing for wall mounting can be arranged it is easier to transport the print unframed and offer instructions on framing at your locality

Cost: The prints are offered at \$390 Au per print unframed plus postage and handling

Time: Depending upon demand, your location and the availability of the expert printer, expect 2-3 weeks for delivery.

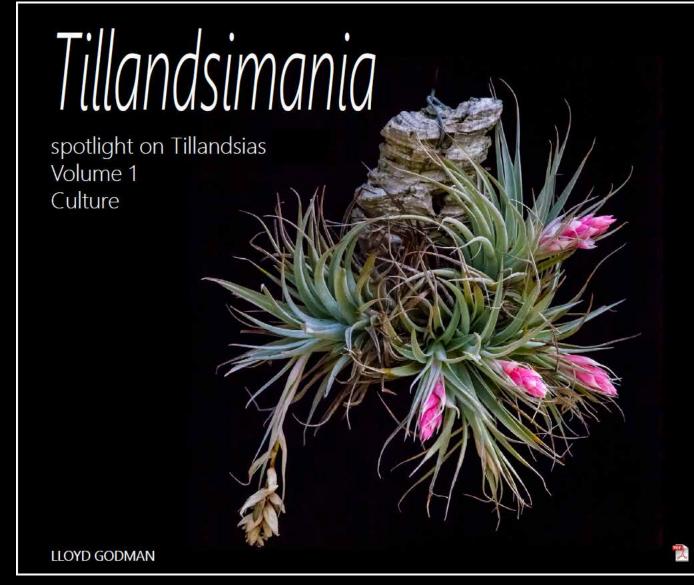
CONTACT: inquires to lloydgodman@gmail.com

Lloyd has works in the following collections

Tate Modern, London, England 2019 Deakin University Art Gallery - Melbourne, Victoria, Australia - 2014 Albury Art Gallery. NSW Australia - 2010 Nillumbik Art Collection, Victoria, Australia - 2010 Glenbow Museum. Gift of Chuck Stake Enterprizes (A.K.A. Don Mabie), 1999 MOCA, Ga Atlanta, USA 2005 Te Papa Tongarewa - Museum of New Zealand Auckland City Art Gallery, Auckland NZ Robert McDougal Art Gallery Christchurch NZ Southland Museum and Art Gallery, Invercargill, NZ Manawatu Art gallery, Palmerston North, N.Z. School of Art Otago Polytechnic, Dunedin, N.Z. Nomad Museum, Lisboa Portugal. Versorgungsaqmt, Heilbronn, Germany. Armstrong Collection, College of Education, Dunedin, N.Z. Brusque Art Museum, Brusque, Brazil. The Museum of Instant Images, Chaam Netherlands. Elam School of Fine Arts, Auckland, N.Z. Nepean Western Sydney University, Australia Tafe School of Art, Eastern Sydney, Australia Canberra School of Art, Canberra, Australia Federiciana Library of Fano Italy

Lillandsimania

E publications



Tillandsimania

\$30 Aust

This is a series of interactive PDFs and a work in progress which is updated annually. This means key words are linked to relevant information on other pages, so the document is easy to navigate and find information.

The 2020 version offers extensive information on Tillandsias or air plants and includes:

6 documents

Contents includes: Over 1500 pages Over 390 plant entries Over 1600 photographs Over 140 illustrations and renders Over 50 maps Over

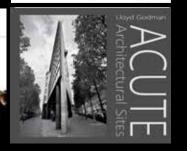
It is rich in photographs and illustrations. The resolution of the images is high which allows enlargements to 300-400%, while the text can be enlarged even higher.

Email for more information. lloydgodman@gmail.com.











More than 30 of Lloyd Godman's art projects are now available as high resolution interactive PDFs. (over 6,000 pages. The complete package can be downloaded. The cost for the complete PROJECTS package is \$30 Aust

Email for more information. lloydgodman@gmail.com.



Working with Plants













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