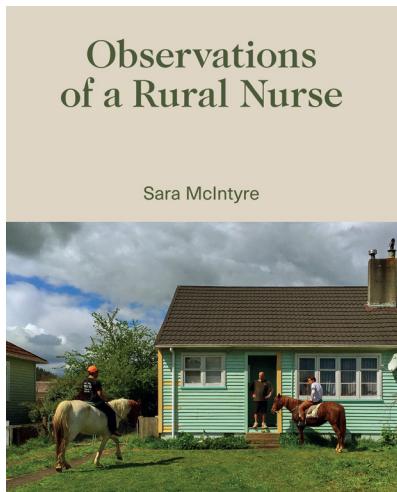




Observations of a Rural Nurse

SARA MCINTYRE



\$55

CATEGORY: Non fiction

ISBN: 978-0-9951229-7-0

ESBN: n/a

THEMA: AJCD, JBSC, M, 1MBN

BIC: AJB, JFSF, 1MBN, MQCH

BISAC: PHO011000, PHO014000,

PHO019000

PUBLISHER: Massey University Press

IMPRINT: Massey University Press

PUBLISHED: June 2020

PAGE EXTENT: 304

FORMAT: Hardback

SIZE: 255mm x 200mm

RIGHTS: World

AUTHOR RESIDENCE: Kākahi, King
Country, New Zealand

A UNIQUE PHOTOGRAPHIC PORTRAIT OF THE KING COUNTRY

Sara McIntyre, the daughter of the artist Peter McIntyre, was nine years old when her family first came to Kākahi, in the King Country, in 1960. The family has been linked to Kākahi ever since.

On the family car trips of her childhood, McIntyre got used to her father's frequent stops for subject matter for painting. Fifty years on, when she moved to Kākahi to work as a district nurse, she began to do the same on her rounds, as a photographer.

This book brings together her remarkable photographic exploration — her 'observations' — of Kākahi and the sparsely populated surrounding King Country towns of Manunui, Ōhura, Ōngarue, Piriaka, Ōwhango and Taumarunui.

'It's a cracker.' — Kathryn Ryan, RNZ

'... a truly magnificent collection.' — Clarke Isaacs, *Otago Daily Times*

'A thick book of astonishing photographs taken in the King Country, flicking through feels like going for a walk just after it's stopped raining.' — Unity Books Auckland

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Sara McIntyre was born in Wellington and worked there as a neonatal intensive care nurse for several years. In 2010 she moved to Kākahi in the King Country, where she had been coming to since her family arrived there for a fishing trip in 1960. While working as a district nurse, based at Taumarunui Hospital, she had the opportunity to further explore the area as a photographer. This led to her first solo exhibition at the Anna Miles Gallery in 2016. The Serjeant Gallery, Whanganui, will exhibit her work on May 2020.

SALES POINTS

- An outstanding photographer with a developing public profile
- An irresistible connection to the work of McIntyre's accomplished and famous father, Peter
- An insight into heartland New Zealand
- The artist's exhibition in Whanganui in 2020 will attract a great deal of interest
- A handsome, high-quality package

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Kākāhi Billiards Hall, 2017

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Kākāhi Town Hall, 2014

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Foreword

— Simon McIntyre

One of the marvels of photography is that you can look back at an old photograph and find, there in the detail, something present in the image of my sister Sana and me, taken by our father of Kākāhi around 1960. It is a photograph of us in our father's laundry cupboard. Now, on reflection, it is one of those, 'oh yes' moments. Fast forward 18 years and I am returning to my father's old town, Kākāhi, with a 50mm Pentax camera. This is to add to a bit of my personal history and my father's laundry cupboard of our old Wellington houses.

My father's laundry cupboard has never opened, and Kākāhi in the King Country became her testing ground — family photos, the river, the locals. Her photographs of this subject matter were always present in our home, but were not widely known or appreciated.

Less obvious in those days, but now recognized as a maturing spirit in her work, is the quiet but significant influence of the paintings of our father, Alan Thornton. Alan's paintings were a constant presence, showing the people and landscape of the King Country and of Kākāhi in particular. They were a silent influence in Sana's work, not just in the subjects she chose but also in her style of how she approached them — golden in the late afternoon sun, muted, sombre and grey on a cold winter's day. However, it was the arrival of Instagram that changed all that. Sana's father was a district nurse in the King Country that recruited so strongly.

The arrival of Instagram allowed Sana to get her remarkable photographs of the King Country out to the world. The photographs on this forum had an immediate and life-changing effect, even beyond the number of people now experiencing her photographs for the first time. The number of people who purchase her photographs followed and now the book.

She has a quiet, unassuming manner, and the heart's sometimes often has truth, passion and talent, largely kept under wraps for most of their lifetimes, then brought to life through a series of small but significant events.

She is a quiet, unassuming person to say, don't bother reading about it — just look at the pictures.

Left: Sana and Alan, 2014
Right: Alan's laundry, 2014

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Kākāhi Town Hall, 2018

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Below:
Romance and Alan,
2014
Right:
Alan's laundry,
2014

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