**Comet Project Space: Capture Community**

**Satellite Exhibition Auckland Festival of Photography 2019 Review**

The Capture community is the photographic group part of the Comet Project Space. We were given a mystery brief photo shoot taken on site, this was an exciting way for all involved to learn about the history of the location behind Comet Project Space. The heritage manor has had quite the legacy in it’s historic make-up, this gave us photographers a lot to work with. From the fading façade to ornate garden design and rustic interior, we were invited to become nosy and study every aspect that felt pleasing to the eye. The many possibilities opened up to our photographic lenses was a unique and daunting experience as all those that took part were from very different backgrounds and experience levels.

I was new to the capture community for this shoot and was amazed to find out that Comet Project Space is an initiative started by down-to-earth individuals with a love for all things art and culture that wanted to organise a local platform for gathering people together and allowing emerging artists to display their works. My heart suddenly grew with a new-found fondness for those involved in Comet Project space as well as for those who took part in this exhibition, I got to meet such lovely and amazing people from all walks of life who, like me, felt that we weren’t ‘proper’ artists or might never make it big.

Becoming an emerging artist is hard enough, one has to compete in a very exclusive art world which has already established its renowned name, whether you are studying art/design or are interested in it as a possible career/hobby it is difficult to really get out there and sell your name. It is about who you know, in any business this is key but as I have come to realize it is especially inherent within the art industry, this is why I would like to personally thank Bobbie Gray for all her hard work she put in to this exhibition as well as for having the guts to help out others and create an innovative environment for newbies to get the contacts they are so desperately seeking.

These new connections and cultural interactions were definitely made on the night of the exhibition. Even though it was absolutely freezing outside with on going rain and hail, we all cooped up inside the pristine white walled gallery and sipped on home brewed hot toddy while immersing ourselves in the wonderful photographs that were being displayed. Each artist involved took on the challenge of trying to capture the eerie and somehow beautiful essence that was the site of 249 Ponsonby road where Comet Project Space currently resides. We all showed immense talent and creative flare, but my favourite part of this Capture community group is our induvial and authentic styles that so clearly came out in each one of our photographs.

Overall this experience was extraordinarily fun and pushed us out of our comfort zones and into the spotlight of the Comet Project Space gallery, I would do it again in a heartbeat. I would also highly recommend working with Bobbie Gray as a curator, marketer and general art advisor as she is truly helpful and passionate about Comet Project Space and its values of bringing new art to the forefront of the Auckland community.

Written by Lisa Rudden