

## **CV**

**SERENA STEVENSON 2025**

**Auckland**

**Aotearoa (New Zealand)**

**Serena Stevenson is an Aotearoa-based film director and visual storyteller whose work sits at the intersection of documentary, music culture, and immersive event environments. With over two decades working inside creative communities rather than observing them from the outside, her films and multimedia projects are known for their intimacy, atmosphere, and emotional immediacy.**

**Stevenson's directing style is observational and sensory-driven. Rather than relying solely on narration, she builds narrative through rhythm, gesture, and environment - allowing audiences to feel a story before they are told it. Her camera often moves through spaces as a participant, not a spectator, capturing human movements, subcultures, and collective experiences that translate to connection. This approach has made her a sought-after director for projects that require authenticity, trust, and deep access.**

**More recently work frequently explores themes of belonging, temporary communities, ritual, and creative expression. Much of her practice has developed alongside Aotearoa's arts and festival landscape, where she has spent many years documenting musicians, artists, and audiences within large-scale cultural gatherings. By embedding herself in these environments, Stevenson creates interdisciplinary work that reveal the emotional architecture of shared experience - how people connect, celebrate, and construct meaning together.**

**In addition to directing, Stevenson leads complex multi-camera crews and collaborates closely with editors, sound designers, and composers to shape immersive experiences. She approaches her art and filmmaking as a collective process, while maintaining a strong emotive voice grounded in mood and human presence**

## EDUCATION

2010 Masters of Design, Unitec Institute of Technology, New Zealand

### *Thesis*

Beyond documentary: An investigation into the benefits of collaborative multimedia storytelling techniques.

## WORK HISTORY

- 1995 – Present      Serena Giovanna Stevenson Creative
- International Exhibiting Artist/ Producer / Filmmaker / Creative Director / Business Owner
- I have always developed personal photography projects and multimedia artworks alongside commercial work. Through my company Serena Giovanna Stevenson Creative I continue to receive competitive grants from arts funding agencies as well as public and private sector commissions. Exhibiting and touring my work in galleries, exhibition spaces and media platforms. My commercial work has not only given me an income but feeds into my creative practice through allowing me to upskill in new technologies, innovate and finance R&D. My company also manages my photography work (editorial and advertising), and commercial film/video directing and producing.
- 2008 – 2016      Big VOICE Ltd - Intra-disciplinary Content Design Company.
- Founder / Director / Creative Producer
- Big VOICE was a successful transmedia company that delivered a new wave of documentary, advertising and authentic storytelling. We created potent content and impactful experiences that gave VOICE to individuals, groups, organisations and businesses.
- 2016 - Present      Founder and lead facilitator of Speak Story, a participatory story organisation dedicated to helping community and business, find, create and share their stories.
- 2009 - 2011      Auckland University of Technology (AUT) Lecturer, Multimedia Photojournalism Wrote and delivered the paper (part-time)
- A part-time, 3 year programme in Multimedia Photojournalism for third year students that I introduced, wrote and taught.
- 2013 – 2015      Toi Ora Live Arts Trust, Project Manager / Facilitator (part-time)

I designed and implemented a qualitative research based programme in digital storytelling that was NCEA approved and accredited which was aimed at engaging at risk and vulnerable young people through multimedia storytelling projects, which were delivered through seasonal workshops.

2015 (1st Semester) Unitec Institute of Technology, Lecturer, Communications Digital Tools and Technology (part-time)

Teaching digital tools and technology paper to first year students. During this first semester I involved the students in creating an immersive interactive project for Auckland Museum.

## **ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITIONS BY SERENA STEVENSON**

2025 Three Days In February, World Premiere at Doc Edge Film Festival

2025 Three Days in February live film concert and event at the Grand CIVIC Theatre, Auckland

2024 NOT Vogue Installation, Lucky Star and Thrift Shop Ball

2023 Corner Dairy Project exhibition with the Festival Of Photography Hastings.

2023 Corner Dairy Project, Photographic and interview story exhibition, Te Ahu Collective Gallery, Auckland, Nouméa, Port Vila.

2022 Preloved Project, Street Art installation, online and The Good, The Bad Gallery, Auckland.

2021 Launch Event and Exhibition. Gallery, street, photographic mural installation Preloved Project/ [www.prelovedproject.nz](http://www.prelovedproject.nz)

2021 Splore mini music Docos, screened at multiple venues and galleries.

2019 We are the light, moving light box installation at Splore Festival.

2016 No English Darling preview. 10 images from this project were displayed as part of the Festival of Photography, Auckland, Crave Cafe.

2014 Moko Art Of Nature, De Young Museum San Francisco

2011 Face Value, Canterbury Museum

2011 Face Value inclusion for permanent show titled 'Facing the Sea'. Scotland National Museum.

2011 Group show 'Dis-covery'. Salamanca Arts Centre, Tasmania, Australia.

2010 Face Value film screening and artist talk. Te Papa Museum, Wellington, New Zealand.

2010 Face Value, Tour with Exhibition Services, Waikato Museum, Dunedin Art Gallery, Ashburton Art Gallery.

2009 Group exhibition 'Musicology' symposium/festival Central Conservatory of Music, Beijing.

2009 Beyond Documentary Manukau Festival of Arts, New Zealand

2008 Skin Deep: A history of tattooing, travelling exhibition Curated by the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London.

2005 'Artbeatz Activate' Exhibition, Auckland City Art Gallery

2005 Nov 'The Living Art of Pacific Tattoo' Moorea Tahiti

## **AWARDS**

M.I.L.K Award 2000

AIPA Silver 2000  
Cathay Pacific Photographer of the year 2004  
Roy W Dean Documentary Award 2006  
Mdes with Merit 2009-10  
AVP Award 2011  
Doc Edge Film Festival Winner of Best Sound (Score) 2025

See <http://www.serenastevenson.com/client-list--tcs.html> for more detailed information on my commercial projects, client list and thesis.