

WINTER 2020



AROHA MAI, WELCOME BACK!

Apologies that this winter newsletter comes so late into the season – at the time we would normally have been finalising design and heading to the printers, Aotearoa was only just transitioning to Alert Level 3 from full lockdown. It was hard to know when we would reopen and under what conditions. So we decided on a July release, and with everything in such flux, to go digital instead of committing anything to print. We value every channel we have for communicating with our community so skipping a printed newsletter was not a decision that came easily, although the impact the pandemic has had on our budget certainly helped.

As we put the finishing touches on this deluxe digital edition of our quarterly newsletter, unrestrained by page counts and paper costs, we are relieved that our country has done so well in combating COVID-19 and we are delighted to have the gallery open again. This newsletter introduces you to our new season of exhibitions, also delayed by one month, and we look forward seeing you back in the gallery soon.

Like many businesses, the COVID-19 closure has hit our cashflow hard but we are fighting to close this gap! Te Uru plays a significant leadership role in promoting our community and supporting others who operate in this area. By supporting Te Uru, you help maintain a diverse, vibrant and creative city. Please [visit the support section](#) of our website or use the donation boxes the next time you visit. [Donations](#) help enable everything we do, ensuring that everyone in our community has free access to art.

Ngā mihi nui,

Andrew Clifford
Director | Kaitohu

EXHIBITIONS



CONTEMPORARY WOOD-CARVED NETSUKE

As *kimono* culture flourished during the Edo period (1603-1868), *netsuke*, small carvings, were created as toggles to hold pouches and cases containing tobacco and medicine in place on the obi sash worn with the kimono.

What began as functional pieces to prevent those little suspended containers from falling to the ground evolved into small but highly creative carvings. Today, classic *netsuke* have gained international acclaim as remarkably detailed carvings. Contemporary *netsuke* incorporating new subject matter and approaches have also been attracting attention.

This traveling exhibition showcases contemporary netsuke carved of wood by living *netsuke* craftsmen in Japan, plus netsuke created by contemporary artists such as Izumi Kato. It also includes wooden *netsuke* that visitors may touch. Through this exhibition, visitors will appreciate the sophisticated skills and playful minds behind contemporary netsuke as well as its formal beauty and contemporaneity.

27 June – 2 August 2020

[View online](#)

Preliminary still by Laura Duffy and Aliyah Winter with InsideOUT



THINKING ABOUT THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE

A new group exhibition, developed over the lockdown period, that thinks about the future through the current moment.

If this era of pandemic-driven flux could be visualised, what would it look like? In the past few months, feelings of uncertainty have combined with decisive action to create a future that seems constantly just out of reach. If these strange times could tell us anything, however, it is that the future is always just out of reach, like a strange new constellation of stars in the distant sky or a rainbow appearing intermittently on the horizon.

This exhibition brings together new and existing work to create a reactive constellation; one that could only happen now, as society collectively emerges from a place of contemplation, of rāhui and of isolation.

“Thinking About Thinking About the Future” is also the title of sociologist Chamsy El-Ojeili’s introduction to *Landfall 216*. The 2008 issue, titled *Utopias*, suggests that in reflecting on our future (or futures) we should think of history as a messy accumulation of partly realised visions of the future, rather than as a sequence of events.

Featuring: Anna Sew Hoy, Dane Mitchell, Edith Amituanai, Josephine Cachemaille, Paul Cullen, Laura Duffy and Aliyah Winter with InsideOUT. Curated by Chloe Geoghegan.

27 June – 27 September 2020

[View online](#)

Philipa Blair, *Down Under Cover*, 2016 (detail)

PHILIPPA BLAIR: DOWN UNDER COVER

A feast for the eyeballs after our recent screen-centric lock down, Te Uru presents *Down under cover*, an energetic series of paintings by internationally renowned contemporary artist Philipa Blair.

In the past 50 years, Blair has been described as a traveller and a restless spirit, fluent in translating the tumultuous world around her into vibrant observations that are boldly autobiographical but also hum with the familiar rhythms of life. For Blair, the universal is the personal, as she tunes into the world around her, feeling the energy, rhythm and colour of both city streets and nature alike. Shifting light, musical scores, found objects, architectural plans, maps, memories, change, humour, motherhood, love and loss are not exempt from Blair's all-embracing approach to painting life.

The work of Philipa Blair (b. 1945, Aotearoa) has been exhibited regularly for most of her long and distinguished career, from early shows across Aotearoa in the 1970s, to international solo exhibitions in New York in the 1980s, and significant museum exhibitions and teaching positions in the 1990s in Los Angeles, a city that became her home for twenty years (1995-2014). *Down under cover* is an acknowledgement of Blair's incredible achievements, and a belated welcome home for a celebrated local artist who continues to challenge the conventional limits of painting in an image-soaked world.

Curated by Chloe Geoghegan

4 July – 6 September 2020

[View online](#)

Tim Wagg, *Working Towards Meaning* (519_0272.MXF), 2020



TIM WAGG: WORKING TOWARDS MEANING

Auckland-based artist Tim Wagg works across a variety of mediums including video, installation and digital painting. His work explores the intersections of politics, identity and technology within the context of New Zealand. He considers the tangibility of archives and histories, and examines the visual languages surrounding moments of political change.

Working towards meaning is the collective title for a series of new works which capture the artist framing and installing Colin McCahon's chapel windows at Auckland Art Gallery in the lead up to the McCahon Centenary exhibition, *A Place to Paint: Colin McCahon in Auckland*. The imagery – taken the week after Wagg completed his McCahon House Residency – has been repurposed by the artist from raw digital files provided by a documentary crew working on a parallel project.

The title comes from McCahon's written reflection on his experience of painting the chapel windows during the summer of 1965-66. In his writing, McCahon also states his desire to minimise the labour of the painting process in order to place more focus on what the work is attempting to communicate.

Working towards meaning reflects on Wagg's blurred relationship to McCahon through both the residency and his role as a technician assisting on the restoration project. These works are as much depictions of labour as they are responses to art history. Born out of coincidence and selection rather than traditional artistic labour, Wagg's prints attempt to reveal the way an artwork may oscillate between object and art, depending on what else is in frame.

The artist acknowledges the generosity of Chris Dudman and Bridget Hackshaw in the making of this exhibition. Tim Wagg was a McCahon House artist-in-residence in 2019. *Working towards meaning* is his post-residency exhibition.

11 July – 13 September 2020

[View online](#)



WYF: WHERE YOU FROM

Fresh One Collective has partnered with The Creative Souls Project, Whau the People, Creative New Zealand and Te Uru to bring a contemporary, young and, of course, a FRESH approach on how artist collectives interact with gallery spaces that do not necessarily always represent them.

The exhibition title *WYF: Where you from* draws on the way young people abbreviate text, as well as mimic slang, juxtaposed in a more formal gallery space. "Where you from?" is also a common question asked when people meet, often resulting in conflicting responses depending on how individuals interpret where they come from, whether ethnically via migration, ancestral land connections, or simply their suburb. WYF searches for insight into personal experiences of home; how our homes shape us, politicise us and creates us.

WYF features 10 young artists working in photography, sculpture, painting, design, video and installation. Exhibition curators Paulina Bentley and Hulita Koloi intend visitors to engage with the stories behind the artworks, and voices from the next generation of artists in Auckland. WYF promotes the diverse views and

backgrounds that co-exist and will progress the art world into a more inclusive space for both established and emerging young artists.

WYF has been generously supported by Creative New Zealand's Toi Rangatahi Engagement Fund.

Featuring: Ashleigh Taupaki, Atonia Vavao, Cyrille Paul Lim, Eva Fuemana, Hamish Raman, Jacob Hamilton, Jasmine Tuiā, Joseph Hisayasu, Mr Meeseeks, Taunese Pua.

Fresh One will be taking over Te Uru's Instagram @te_uru_gallery during the first 2 weeks of the exhibition. Each day a different member of the collective will respond to what 'home' means, and how the idea of home has shifted since the lock down. You can also follow Fresh One on their own Instagram @freshonecrew

11 July – 13 September 2020

[View online](#)



EVENTS

FILM SCREENING: EVERY DAY A GOOD DAY

A special film screening in conjunction with our exhibition, *Contemporary wood-carved netsuke*, which looks at historic Japanese practices in contemporary life.

Every day a good day depicts the protagonist learning important life lessons through the tea ceremony, based on essayist Morishita Noriko's long-selling book. Directed by Omori Tatsushi of *The ravine of goodbye* and starring Kuroki Haru of *The little house* with co-star Kiki Kilin of *Shoplifters*.

At the recommendation of her mother, 20-year-old Noriko (Kuroki) and her cousin Michiko (Tabi Mikako) start taking tea ceremony lessons with Takeda, who has a reputation for being an extraordinary teacher. At first, Noriko is confused by the intricate rules, but after two years she comes to realize the profundity of the tea ceremony.

Directed by Omori Tatsushi. Produced by Yoshimura Tomomi, Kanai Takaharu and Kondo Takahiko.

Saturday 11 July, 2pm
Lopdell Theatre | Free, all welcome

[View online](#)



NETSUKE: EXHIBITION TALK

In 2019, Grace Lai, Curator of Applied Arts and Design at Auckland Museum curated the exhibition *Carried Away: Bags Unpacked*. The exhibition featured bags that were rich with stories of innovative design, indigenous traditions and personal stories. Through this process she became familiar with the Museum's collection of 18th and 19th century *netsuke* pieces, that of course were key items in the history of bags and everyday carried objects in Japan.

Join Grace for a talk on traditional and contemporary netsuke, as she takes us through Te Uru's exhibition and her own experiences researching the diverse use of bags across cultures and centuries.

Saturday 25 July, 2-3pm
Learning Centre | Free, all welcome

[View online](#)



Sarah McKenzie

walking about

12 months > 12 artists

WALKING ABOUT IN FOG BY LAYNE WAEREA AND LANA LOPESI

In Auckland, Winter is a great season for fog. Artist Layne Waerea has long engaged with the physical and conceptual practice of chasing fog and, with *Walking about in fog*, she invites Aucklanders to follow a full lunar cycle of fog by walking with her and collaborator Lana Lopesi. Beginning with the full moon on Saturday June 6 and culminating with the following full moon on Sunday July 5, Aucklanders will be supported to rise early, seek the fog and share their experiences with each other in photographic form.

For the duration of the full moon cycle, Waerea will be offering a limited* number of vouchers for local businesses to those who walk about in fog and share their images. (*The voucher offer is only valid until the artist runs out.)

6 June – 5 July

[View online](#)

PĪTA TUREI: RANGI MATARIKI

Join storyteller Pīta Turei at Rangimatariki for the third in a series of storytelling events. Standing on the point of Rangimatariki, a history of the land and people can be shared. This history helps to strengthen and increase our knowledge of celestial progression, by observing and sharing the oral histories of Tāmaki Makaurau. Together we will watch Matariki rising as Turei shares histories of Tāmaki. As dawn breaks, join the hīkoi out to Motu Manawa across the mud flats. This hīkoi acknowledges the significance of Rangimatariki, Motu Manawa and Te Kou (Pollen Island Marine Reserve) for Te Wai o Hua and the people of Tāmaki. Presented as part of Matariki Festival 2020.

To protect the delicate ecology of the marine reserve, numbers for the hīkoi to Motu Manawa are limited to 20. Register on Eventbrite to secure your place or email kiaora@walkingabout.nz. The walk requires a reasonable degree of physical fitness and in parts crosses thick tidal mud. Gumboots or sturdy walking boots are a mandatory requirement for all walkers.

Tuesday 14 July, 6:00am

Meet at Rangimatariki, Rosebank Domain, 126 Patiki Rd, Avondale. 7:20am, walk to Motu Manawa across the mud flats.

[View online](#)



TERM 3 WORKSHOPS

PRIMARY AND INTERMEDIATE

We now have on offer three different types of workshop delivery to select from. You can either visit Te Uru and go for a gallery tour with a hands-on workshop, or we can visit you with our Art in a box lessons, or try our new Art in a bag workshops. This is a new option where we send you a comprehensive lesson plan with everything you need to facilitate an interactive workshop in your classroom.

Netsuke miniatures

For this workshop we will explore the intriguing Japanese artform of miniature ornaments called *netsuke*, with a focus on their history, materials and techniques. Students will create their own miniature sculpture using air-drying clay. This workshop can be adapted to include current school themes. (Yrs. 2-8, technology, social history, maths and visual art strands DI, CI, PK, UC)

Matariki kākahu/cloak

Create a special classroom kākahu learning about the history and significance of Māori cloaks. Students design a unique set of stylised symbols to place inside triangular feather shapes that relate to Matariki. The workshop will combine mixed media techniques as well as a collaborative element to decorate the edges of the cloak. (Yrs. 1-8, te reo Māori, social history, technology, and visual art strands DI, CI, PK, UC)

Te Uru and McCahon House Museum tandem visits

Students have the opportunity to view contemporary art at Te Uru followed by a tour of McCahon House in French Bay. With the cottage only a five-minute drive from the gallery, why not visit both in one outing?

Early childhood

We now provide gallery visits and workshops tailored to meet the needs of the preschool years. Take a tour of an appropriate exhibition followed by a hands-on workshop in our Learning Centre.

Guided gallery visit

View a range of contemporary artworks spread across five unique gallery spaces. Students will be encouraged to interpret different artworks, considering key ideas, materials and techniques.

Bookings and further information

09 8178087 X 204 or education@teuru.org.nz

[View online](#)



EDUCATORS ART DEVELOPMENT

Educators Art Development is a series of open, arts-intensive classes designed to up-skill early-childhood through to primary school teachers, as well as other art educators in specialist areas.

Squiglla – Bringing arts back into the classroom

As children return to school in the wake of the 2020 lockdown, school principals put out the call to "bring the arts back" to the classrooms. How do we do this for all ages and skills?

This Squiglla workshop for educators presents Squiglla as a creative learning tool for teachers to wanting to develop a fresh approach to creative thinking through the arts. We know that exercising the body is crucial and so too is exercising the creative mind. Squiglla encourages the brain, the eye, the hand and the whole body to think outside the box.

Playing with the visual language of dots and lines, Squiglla exercises the creative mind through non-judgemental mark making. The Squiglla workshop will present a range of offline and online activities which tap into this creative energy through the joy of pure, playful mark-making.

Lesson guides, classroom materials and inspiration videos will be available. As Squiglla-makers, participants will start offline using a variety of mark making tools like pencils and crayons, composing lines and dots in endless variations around the page, creating new responses, memories and actions as they go. Stripping away any pressure to 'draw something representational' allows the freedom to invent and explore. The workshop format is an easy way for everyone to actively exercise skills such as playfulness, innovation, risk taking, curiosity, divergent thinking, collaboration and problem posing.

Next, using Squiglla.org online, we will demonstrate ways to upload, record, share and collaborate so teachers can take Squiglla back to their classrooms. Bring a digital device, mark making materials supplied. Presented by Karen Turner (intermediate teacher) and Sue Gardiner from The Chartwell Trust who are both co-developers of Squiglla.

Wednesday, 2 September, 5-7pm

Learning Centre | \$25 per session

Bookings and further information

09 8178087 X 201 or info@teuru.org.nz

[View online](#)

Phillipa Blair: Intersection / Pacific Coast Highway, 2004



CORPORATE TEAM BUILDING WORKSHOPS

IDENTITY MANDALA

Co-create a large-scale collaborative mandala in a beautiful studio that looks into the surrounding Titirangi bush. Learn about different types of surface painting techniques while you explore your own identity and culture alongside your team kaupapa. We'll combine symbols and text inside geometric shapes to highlight with pastels and paint then sgraffito cold wax to complete. These brightly coloured geometric artworks will become a beautiful artwork to adorn your office with. Enjoy a platter of delicious treats while you collectively create, working in a relaxed and supportive environment. Let us know if you would like us to be a part of your next teambuilding day. We are flexible and can work with you to design a perfect day out.

Bookings and further information
09 8178087 X 201 or info@teuru.org.nz

[View online](#)

STUDIO WORKSHOPS

PHILIPPA BLAIR WORKSHOP

A rare opportunity to meet renowned artist Phillipa Blair who has been a standout talent of abstract painting both in New Zealand and internationally. Enjoy a special guided tour of her latest show *Phillipa Blair: Down under cover* to gain broader insights into her processes, motivation and techniques. Then participate in a hands-on abstract painting workshop. This workshop will be a high energy workshop where you will learn some exciting new tips on how to extend your drawing and painting practice while being inspired by a master of this medium.

Saturday 29 August, 10am – 4pm
\$120 includes all materials

Bookings and further information
09 8178087 X 201 or info@teuru.org.nz

[View online](#)

Zoe Nash, *Dandelion* (detail)

STUDIO WORKSHOPS

INSPIRE SERIES: PHILIPPA BLAIR

Join us for an exclusive evening tour of *Philippa Blair: Down under cover* with our new curator Chloe Geoghegan. Gain a broader perspective of Philippa's accomplished practice spanning five decades with exuberant abstract paintings that traverse life in all of its complexities. Create an abstract painting using ink wash, masking tape and acrylic paint thinking about colours as energy and emotions and lines as rhythms and movement inspired by moving through the architecture of Te Uru. Enjoy a glass of wine and nibbles while you get creative.

Wednesday 19 August, 5.30-8pm
\$40 includes everything

FLOWER POWER:

ABSTRACTION AND FLORAL MOTIF

Join artist and educator Zoe Nash for this six-week high-energy course that takes inspiration from the natural world. Learn about abstraction and visual communication using floral motifs and nature as a guide. Introduce new skills that explore a range of innovative mark-making, drawing and painting methods, tools and applications. Experimentation is key, pushing the boundaries to discover and develop your own drawing style which will be actively encouraged.

Fridays, 31 July – 4 September, 10am – 1pm
\$220 includes most materials

CREATIVE OUTBURSTS

Nurture your creative potential with our brand new workshop series designed especially for adults encouraging experimentation with a diverse range of media in a safe and inspiring environment. From still life sketching, printing, ink wash studies, 3D media and gallery tours, you will have the chance to get inspired and develop your creative skill base.

Fridays, 7 August – 18 September, 1.30-3pm
\$140 includes all materials, suitable for beginners

Bookings and further information
09 8178087 X 201 or info@teuru.org.nz

[View online](#)



STUDIO WORKSHOPS

FOR CHILDREN - AFTER SCHOOL

Tiny worlds

Over six weeks, students will create a stunning mixed media landscape inspired by science fiction and microscopic images from nature. Experiment with ink wash effects combined with paint layering and sponging techniques. Pop-out fantasy insects will be designed and merged with collage to place over the other-worldly landscape.

Thursdays, 13 August – 17 September, 3.30-5pm

Six sessions \$120 includes all materials. Suitable for ages 6-12 years | Tutor Kinstry Smythe

Mixed media delights

Creative after school workshops that explore new media with an experimental approach. Over the term we will paint, sketch in the gallery, photograph, collage and more while learning new techniques and enjoying a range of diverse processes.

Tuesdays, 28 July – 15 September, 3.30-4.30pm

Eight sessions \$120 includes all materials. Suitable for ages 7-12 years

[View online](#)

HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

CIRCLE THE PACIFIC

Monday: Engrave a foam plate of a Japanese folklore creature to print onto an ink washed cityscape.

Tuesday: Make an amazing Javanese movable puppet with batik inspired resist details.

Wednesday: Sculpt a marine iguana from the Galapagos Islands using air-drying clay to place onto a painted seascape.

Thursday: Create a fabric artwork inspired by intricate tapa patterns and sea life in the Pacific.

Friday: Paint a volcanic Hawaiian island using special lava crackle glazes, iron sand and rocky textured modelling compound.

6-17 July, 10am – 1pm

\$35 per day includes all materials.
Suitable for ages 6-12 years

Bookings and further information

09 8178087 X 201 or info@teuru.org.nz

[View online](#)



LEARNING CENTRE GALLERY

Netsuke

We are delighted to share with you *Netsuke*, a travelling exhibition of Japanese carvings on a miniature scale. View over 60 contemporary, elaborately carved wooden ornaments that were originally used as toggles to fasten pouches onto Japanese clothing such as kimonos. This artform was popular in the 17th and 18th centuries, where the carved *netsuke* toggles held cases containing tobacco and medicine pouches in place, so they were both functional and ornamental. Brought to us by the Japan Foundation.

27 June – 2 August 2020

Miniatures studio workshop

Join us for a free clay workshop inspired by our Learning Centre exhibition of Japanese tiny ornaments called *netsuke*. Learn about the history of this Japanese practice, then take part in a hands-on workshop creating a small-scale 3D sculpture using air drying clay.

Saturday 25 July, 10-11am and 11.30am – 12.30pm

Two sessions | Free

Bookings essential

09 8178087 X 201 or info@teuru.org.nz

Fishy business

View a playful, vibrant and colourful collection of works by the artists of A Supported Life's creative hub, 'two4nine', who are motivated by a belief in our artists' authentic creativity in their works. Art is about revealing ourselves and creating meaningful connections – between artists, tutors and art lovers. Our experience will always be shared, our knowledge passed on, and our studio will be a space for fun, creativity and success.

A Supported Life works with the Ministry of Social Development and the Ministry of Health to empower people with a moderate to mild learning disabilities through supported accommodation, lifestyle planning and development. They teach a range of skills to suit the diverse needs and aspirations of the people they support.

8 August – 20 September 2020

[View online](#)

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY

Become a Te Uru member and get more involved with a gallery dedicated to presenting contemporary art through a diverse programme of exhibitions and events.

JOIN TODAY TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING BENEFITS

- invitations to exhibition previews and events
- quarterly newsletters
- 10% discount from the Gallery Shop (exclusions apply)

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Life Member | \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Make a donation | \$ |

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PAY ONLINE teuru.org.nz/index.cfm/support/membership

QUERIES info@teuru.org.nz

Contact us

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Visit us

Tuesday–Sunday
10am to 4.30pm
420 Titirangi Road
Titirangi
Auckland

Closed Christmas Day,
Easter Friday and
ANZAC morning.

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Te Uru welcomes diversity. We are committed to manaakitanga and providing a safe environment for everyone. Our Safe Spaces Statement can be found at teuru.org.nz/index.cfm/visit

If you might require any assistance with your visit, don't hesitate to get in touch.

Te Uru Waitākere Contemporary Gallery
Incorporated is a registered charity CC41215