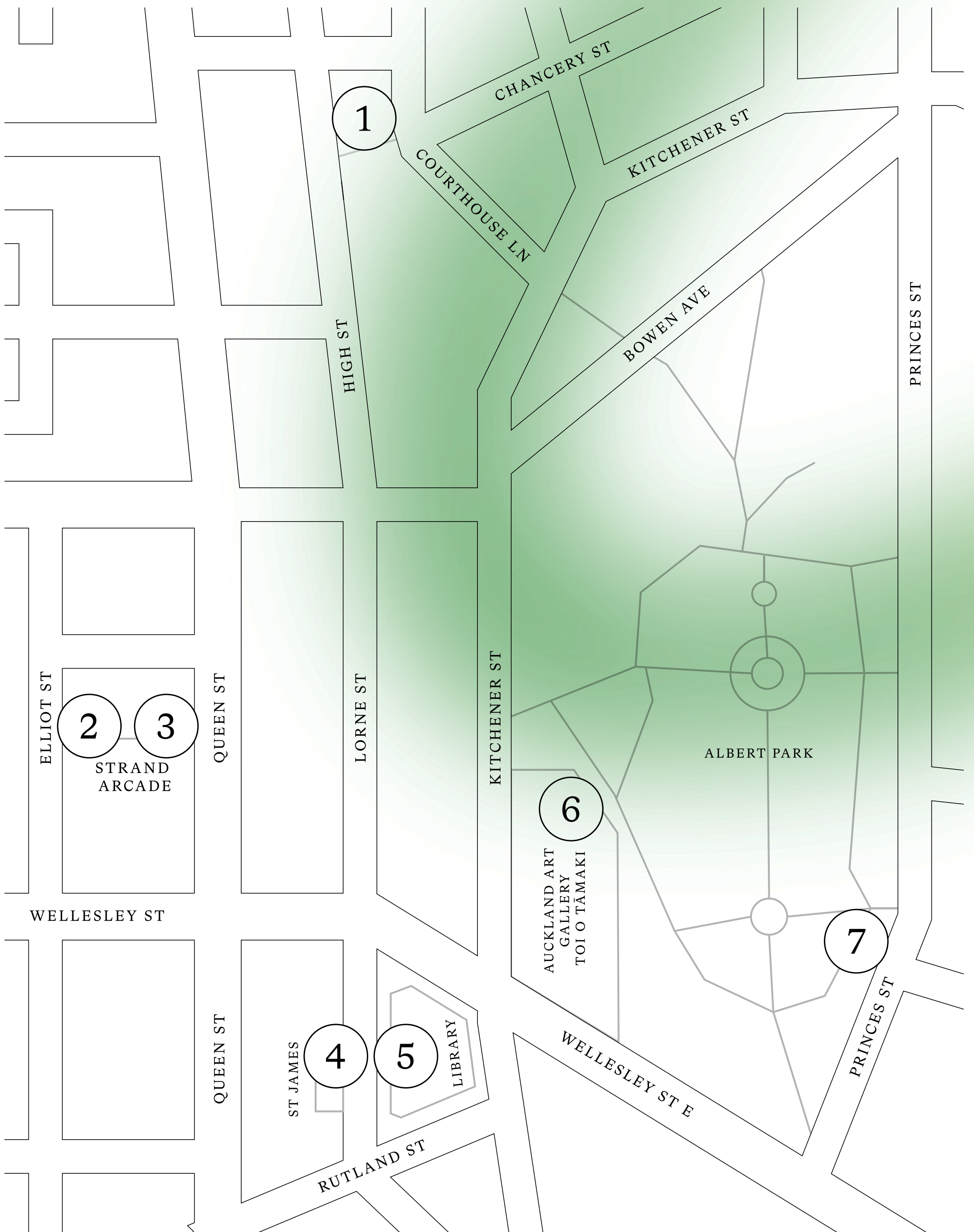


Wild Wild Life

How is Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland described outside of official city maps?

Wild Wild Life is a collection of seven new artist videos developed in response to the city of Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland, installed across the inner city.



1

Gabriel White

Motorway Flowers, 2024

Digital Video, Silent

20 minutes

Ellen Melville Centre, 2 Freyberg Place

“Near the beginning of *The Aeneid* (29-19 BC), Aeneas is wandering around snapping twigs off trees, trying to find a decent oracle. Blood oozes out of a tree and voice says: “this is NOT a good place to build your city – be gone!” These days we have the opposite issue. The city is everywhere – we’re looking for somewhere other than the city. We pick up broken bits of it and listen for the oracular voice coming from the power box or the wheelie bin. It says: “Keep going. Head towards the abandoned shopping trolley. Take the abandoned shopping trolley through the stormwater drain. When you come out the other end, there’s a patch of grass waiting for you.” – text supplied by the Artist

Gabriel White is a musician, performer and moving image artist from Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland. His moving image work explores industrial and suburban landscapes as a field for playful, surrealist improvisation, led by a wandering figure who scours unlikely environs for signs of an enigmatic otherworld lying beneath our everyday surroundings.

Director and Performer: Gabriel White

Co-Director and Camera: Catherine O’Brien

Editor and Post-production: Adam-Luka Turjak

2

Layne Waerea with Joe Jowitt,
Ziggy Lever, Deborah Rundle,
and Charlie Stringer
Bonus Play, 2024

Digital Video, Sound

12 minutes

Strand Arcade 227 Queen Street
(Elliott St entranceway)

“*Bonus Play* locates itself in the contested public spaces of inner city Tāmaki Mākaurau / Auckland. In particular, Auckland Council / Te Kaunihera o Tāmaki Makaurau’s ‘bonus floor scheme’ which, since the 1970s, has encouraged private developers to increase the floor space of high-rise buildings by providing public access or a ‘public benefit’ as a result of the changed built-up environment. These usually take the form of pedestrian accessways through buildings, escalators, widened footpaths, and privately-owned artworks accessible to the general public. This work acknowledges and explores these public spaces and benefits and offers an alternative and playful map that at times sits alongside, intersects, and even overlays existing routes, paths and junctures of inner-city Tāmaki Makaurau.” – text supplied by the Artist

Layne Waerea (Ngāti Wāhiao, Ngāti Kahungunu, Pākehā) is an artist based in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland whose practice involves carrying out performance art interventions that question and challenge preferred social and legal behaviours in the public sphere. These interventions often respond to current socio-legal, culturally-political news, a significant anniversary, or seasonal event. Waerea is also the president of the Chasing Fog Club (Est. 2014).

3

Tia Barrett *Maungakiekie, 2024*

Digital Video, Silent

5 minutes

233 Queen Street

“Spoken about by mana whenua as a living tīpuna (ancestor), Maungakiekie, (One Tree Hill) holds space within a concrete jungle to an existence that once was vastly different to the life it lives today. The pūrākau (story) within the name, like many poutokomanawa whenua (significant landmarks) in Aotearoa, holds accessible mātauranga (knowledge) in plain sight. Creating alongside Maungakiekie is a woven hononga (connection) that reimagines the existence of the indigenous climbing shrub kiekie back on the tīpuna maunga. *Maungakiekie* is a silent moving image that embodies a moment of reflection, a nod to the past, and a sense of maungārongo (peace) in the chaos that is city life.” – text supplied by the Artist

Tia Barrett (Waikato Tainui, Ngāti Maniapoto, Ngāti Tamainupō, Ngāi Tahu) is an Kirikiriroa-based artist predominantly working in lens-based practice.

“As a ringatoi whakaahua nukunuku (moving image artist), I am interested in deepening my connection to whenua (land) me ō ngā tūpuna (ancestors) through a lens and mōteatea (sung Māori poetry) based practice. As a kaitiaki (guardian), I tell stories to preserve the mātauranga of my time and space to one day inform a better future for ngā mokopuna (future generations)” – Tia Barrett

Tia Barrett acknowledges CIRCUIT, Auckland Council / Te Kaunihera o Tāmaki Makaurau, Screen Auckland, The Tūpuna Maunga Authority, Kairaranga Roberta Elliott and all Mana Whenua to Maungakiekie: Ngāti Tamaoho, Te Ahiwaru, Ngāti Te Ata Waiohua, Te Patukirikiri, Ngāti Maru, Waikato-Tainui, Ngāti Whātua o Ōrākei, Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara, Ngāti Whātua, Ngāti Tamaterā, Te Akitai Waiohua, Ngāti Pāoa, Te Kawerau a Maki, Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki.

4

Obadiah Russon
TWICE, 2024

Digital Video, Silent

15 minutes

St James Theatre (rear exterior wall
opposite Central City Library) 46 Lorne St

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - DUSK

Young woman crouches on the side of a quiet, semi-rural street, waiting. Light rain; it is a humid night in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland. Dark clouds hover overhead.

Beat-up Honda pulls up, driven by another young woman. The waiting girl runs to the car, dropping a bag on the back seat.

The car pulls out and they drive, the sun lowering on the horizon. City lights begin to appear around them.

EXT. CITY CAR PARK ROOF – NIGHT

Honda waiting alone in car park.

Two young women appear at the top of the stairs, and walk towards the car. Sky black-blue, moon hangs low above the horizon.

The car doors slam. Silence falls.

Girls stare ahead.

The car starts and descends the levels of the carpark, leaving the city.

They drive, just-breaking dawn follows behind them.

– text supplied by the Artist

Obadiah Russon is an artist originally from Te Whanganui-a-Tara / Wellington. Currently based in New York City, USA, she works between video and sculpture. Her work explores connections between the human body, contemporary spirituality and the existential impact derived from depictions of the future.

Director/Writer/Editor: Obadiah Pinky Russon. Producer: Eleanor Woodhouse. Sound/Score: Jordan Whitley, Cay Works. Performers: Meg Porteous, Beth Clemens

5

Leala Faleseuga
Lealaivaega, 2024

Digital Video, Sound

4 minutes

Central City Library (old café) 46 Lorne St

“Lealaivaega is an exploration of place, a recreation, reclamation and remembering of the artist’s late grandmother’s Māngere East home and garden. Imbued with alofa and nostalgia, it also acknowledges the significance of domestic spaces for immigrants in the diaspora.

The work uses old family videos and photos, anecdotes, flowers, as well as items from the home to illustrate vignettes of memory, which are presented in an almost dreamlike sequence. The choral soundtrack from 1974 features Leala’s grandmother and three other family members. Locating this work back in the CBD acknowledges the rich Pasifika history that the inner city of Aukilani has, of which the artist’s grandmother and aiga were part of. *Lealaivaega* is the Sāmoan name that the artist and her grandmother share.

In loving memory, alofa tele”

– text supplied by the Artist

Leala Faleseuga (Sāmoa, Salelologa / The Netherlands, Limburg & Friesland) is a multidisciplinary artist who was born in Aotearoa. Their practice is grounded in photography, alternative processing, analogue-digital cycles and painting, evolving to encompass video, digital collage and writing. Faleseuga works and exhibits solo, as well as with the 7558 Collective. Her work often muses on memory, archives, artefacts, diasporic and intimate everyday narratives. Faleseuga is Horowhenua based, a māmā and a Librarian.

Solomona, H. H. P., & Dellow, R. (1974). *Ia saga vi’ia pea le Atua* (Let us praise God forever) / Aufaipese Ekalesia Metotisi, Samoa, Aukilani. Hibiscus Records | Reed Pacific Records (1974)

6

Gavin Hipkins *Motion of a Current*, 2024

Digital Video, Silent

13 minutes

Edmiston Amphitheatre, Auckland Art
Gallery, Cnr Kitchener and Wellesley Streets
(backs onto Albert park)

“Drifting across the city in a slow-motion video recording, *Motion of a Current* documents Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland’s public gardens. Collating diverse garden landscapes and flora, the film forms a hybrid sanctuary, presented here as backdrop to the city’s rhythms, communities, and neighbourhoods. Shot from a train window, views of passing homes form a map of Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland’s town planning and liminal spaces. Calling on divergent references, including a nineteenth century essay on gravitation and astrological symbols, art and science collide in this new work. A poetic sequencing of passages and signs considers how we negotiate Tāmaki Makaurau’s spaces and places today, and into the future.” – text supplied by the Artist

Gavin Hipkins is an award-winning artist based in Tāmaki Makaurau. His practice navigates ideas of social and political utopias by documenting leisure sites including urban parks and public architecture. His cinematic language blurs conventional genres of essay film, documentary and experimental structures. Hipkins has exhibited widely over the last three decades both in Aotearoa and internationally. Recent group exhibitions include Recontres Internationales Paris/Berlin (2023); CROSSROADS 2022, San Francisco (2022); Internationale Kurzfilmtage Winterthur, Switzerland (2021). His work is held in public collections including Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki, Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa and Queensland Art Gallery. Hipkins is an Associate Professor at Elam School of Fine Arts, The University of Auckland.

Courtesy of the artist and Michael Lett.

Design: Philip Kelly

Colourist: Alana Cotton

Animation: Grant Priest

Postproduction Facilities: Images and Sound,
Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland

Supported by Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki

7

Jae Hoon Lee
Space Tree, 2024

Digital Video, Sound
15 minutes 3 seconds
Caretaker's Cottage, Albert Park,
33-43 Princes St

“Passing over a series of inner-city sites, the space tree glides in perpetual movement. Like a mysterious extra-terrestrial organism, it flourishes in countless directions; defying conventional patterns of growth whilst seeming to follow a pre-determined web. Although not yet manifest in the local ecosystem, sustenance for the space tree comes from its continuous visits to Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland locations including the cemetery, Zoo, and city centre. Finally, it bursts beyond the boundaries of the city. The combination of the space tree’s organic growth and virtual interconnectedness represents both a technological fantasy and a mirror of the dynamic nature of our modern world.”

– text supplied by the Artist

Jae Hoon Lee’s multiple migrations and his preoccupation with new advances in technology continue to define and inform his practice. At the same time, his work demonstrates an enduring concern with place, movement and individuality. Lee’s digitally enhanced, hyper-real landscapes are a composite of images he gathers on his travels. Lee’s digital photographs and video installations have been exhibited widely in Aotearoa / New Zealand and internationally over the past fifteen years and acquired for both public and private collections. Lee lives and works in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland, Aotearoa / New Zealand.

Drone operator: Jae Hoon Lee
Computer Graphics and Animation: Alex Lim

Artist Talk

Friday 15 March, 4pm
Spiegeltent, Aotea Square

Join curator Mark Williams and *Wild Wild Life* artists Tia Barrett, Leala Faleseuga, Gavin Hipkins, Layne Waerea and Gabriel White as they discuss their artistic response to the city of Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland.

Mark Williams is the Director of CIRCUIT Artist Moving Image. Founded in 2012, CIRCUIT Artist Moving Image is a non-profit arts agency that supports Aotearoa / New Zealand artists working in the moving image.

Wild Wild Life is presented by Auckland Council / Te Kaunihera o Tāmaki Makaurau and CIRCUIT in association with Te Ahurei Toi o Tāmaki Auckland Arts Festival 7–24 March 2024.

Wild Wild Life was commissioned by Auckland Council / Te Kaunihera o Tāmaki Makaurau. Curated by Mark Williams for CIRCUIT Artist Moving Image.

circuit.org.nz

aaf.co.nz/event/wild-wild-life

aucklandpublicart.com