

# Robert Laking

Artist, writer, and curator of German, Māori, and Pākehā descent

11 Tainui Terrace  
Mt. Cook, Wellington 6021  
(+64) 212 936 147  
rglaking@gmail.com

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### New Zealand Portrait Gallery, Wellington — Curatorial Intern

May 2018 — December 2018

I have curated two exhibitions: *Worn Identities* and *Reflections on the Self*. The primary tasks were planning the scope of the exhibitions, selecting the artworks, writing the accompanying wall texts and a catalogue, and installing the shows. In addition to working on my own exhibitions, I helped with many other aspects of the Gallery. These tasks involved condition reporting incoming and outgoing works, installation and deinstallation of several large exhibitions, assisting with general maintenance of the Gallery, and proof reading texts.

### Potocki Paterson Gallery, Wellington — Curator & Artist

August 2017 — October 2017

As part of an assignment for Massey University I collaborated with two artists and two designers. We successfully proposed our pop-up exhibition *Loose Leaf to Potocki Paterson*, an established gallery. I was heavily involved in all facets of the project. This included branding, seeking sponsorship, designing and writing a publication, installation of works, and supervision of the exhibition.

### Citizen Water Map Lab, Lower Hutt — Intern & 'Lab Technician'

January 2017 — March 2017

I collaborated with Julian Priest who was commissioned to produce an art installation for *Common Ground Festival 2017*. We invited people to collect groundwater to test samples with us in our pop-up citizen science laboratory.

### New Zealand Portrait Gallery, Wellington — Gallery Assistant

July 2015 — March 2016

I minded the front desk on alternate Friday mornings. My responsibilities included interacting with visitors, fielding phone calls, and selling exhibition catalogues.

## EDUCATION

### Massey University, Wellington, NZ

February 2014 — November 2017

I thrived in the self-directed environment of this degree, which taught me to be **resilient with tasks, resourceful solving problems, and responsive to feedback**. All of my works were presented using different media. I strove to work this way so that I would always have the **pleasurable challenge of learning something new**. When needed, I was able to approach members of staff for assistance in resolving technical issues.

### Whitecliffe College of Art and Design, Auckland, NZ

July 2013 — November 2013

I graduated with a **Foundation Certificate in Art and Design**. During the semester I learnt a range of skills, such as painting, drawing, sculpting, photographic processes, sewing, and how to use the Adobe Suite.

### Takapuna Grammar School, Auckland, NZ

February 2008 — November 2012

NCEA Level 3 endorsed overall with Merit.

German, Media Studies and Classics endorsed with Excellence.

## NOTABLE CHARACTERISTICS

I am an avid learner with **intellectual curiosity** in abundance.

I am a **conscientious collaborator**; able to work well with others.

I pay close **attention to detail**.

I am a confident and **competent public speaker**.

I am **well-versed in conceptual writing**, but am also versatile.

I am **thoughtful and considerate** of people's needs.

## NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

Graduated with **Bachelor of Fine Arts (Hons) 1st Class**.

**Kathleen Goodwin Memorial Trophy for Creative Writing**, Takapuna Grammar School, 2012.

**First Place** in the Goethe Society **German Language Competition**, 2011 and 2012.

Selected for the **NZ U17 Road Cycling Team**, 2011. I rode in support of a teammate and helped him win the **Junior Tour of Canberra**.

**Grade 4 Violin** achieved with **Merit**, 2010.

## LANGUAGES

**English, German** (fluent)  
**Te Reo Māori** (beginner)

## INTERESTS

**Chess**  
**Cycling**  
**Linguistics**  
**Mathematics**  
**Philosophy**

**Reflections on the Self** — 22.12.2018–17.02.2019

New Zealand Portrait Gallery, Wellington

This is my second of two exhibitions for the NZPG. I am showing the NZPG's collection of self-portraits by Alan Pearson and Melvin Day alongside works by Bryce Galloway and Jordana Bragg, who regularly insert themselves in their works. **The focus of this exhibition is the diaristic nature of self-portraiture.**

<https://nzportraitgallery.org.nz/whats-on/reflections-on-the-self>

**Worn Identities** — 28.09–16.12.2018

New Zealand Portrait Gallery, Wellington

This was my first exhibition for the NZPG. I worked with two preordained parameters. First, to showcase the NZPG collection, and second, to focus on clothing as the exhibition coincided with World of Wearable Art. **I focussed on the ways in which clothing worn by subjects in portraits could reflect aspects of their personalities.**

<https://nzportraitgallery.org.nz/whats-on/worn-identities>

<https://nzportraitgallery.org.nz/whats-on/worn-identities-curators-talk>

**Exposure** — 03.11–18.11.2017

Massey University, Wellington

I presented my work as part of Massey University's Graduate Show. I also helped put together a catalogue for the BFA graduates.

<https://exposure2017.massey.ac.nz/students/fine-arts/robert-laking/>

**Loose Leaf** — 28.09–02.10.2017

Potocki Paterson Gallery, Wellington

A group exhibition organised by four peers and I. In this show, I presented an early iteration of *untitled jot and t.ttle*. Another significant contribution was the 'subtitle' *bind unbind unbound unbounded*, which we used to give a sense of our concept.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20180918095907/http://www.loose-leaf.info/robert>

**an ascetic dissertation in dissociative aesthetics** — 03.08–19.08.2017

play\_station, Wellington

The eponymous work was shown alongside Tyler Jackson's *Light-Space Corridor*.

<https://playstationspace.com/-rg-laking-030817-190817/>

<https://www.eyecontactsite.com/2017/08/beyond-physicality>

## NOTABLE WORKS

**rob the artist, bill the artist** — 2018

This work was installed in MEANWHILE Gallery's new window space, at street level on Willis Street. It is the front panel of a crate which transported works by Billy Apple to TATE Liverpool in 2002.

<https://www.meanwhilegallery.com/rob-the-artist>

<https://www.instagram.com/p/BkNH2xiHiiq/?hl=en&taken-by=gnikaltrebor>

**untitled jot and t.ttle** — 2017

A jot without its tittle is presented alongside a tittle without its jot. Both were cast in plaster and painted with Stuart Semple's ultra-matte *Black 2.0*.

**an ascetic dissertation in dissociative aesthetics** — 2017

A recursive treatise on the aesthetics of *dis-* and its associations. A looping sentence is presented in single-channel video with intermittent strobing and blaring white noise.

<https://youtu.be/1pT86pBN91c>

**the everyday is no longer every-day,  
when separated from the every day** — 2016

A sentence presented above a large window using vinyl.

**The Venerated Manifesto for Obscurantism** — 2015

A discursive intertextual exercise in verbosity which has influenced my subsequent art practice.

**Jaenine Parkinson**

Director, NZ Portrait Gallery

[director@nzportraitgallery.org.nz](mailto:director@nzportraitgallery.org.nz)

(+64) 21 177 9019

**Shannon Te Ao**

Lecturer, Whiti o Rehua School of Art

[s.teao@massey.ac.nz](mailto:s.teao@massey.ac.nz)

(+64) 21 059 4250

**Aaron Lister**

Curator, City Gallery Wellington

[aaronl@experiencewellington.org.nz](mailto:aaronl@experiencewellington.org.nz)

(+64) 4 913 9034