



Remnants.

Holly Walker - Will Bennett - George Turner

Hunters and Collectors

6.9.2024 - 4.10.2024

Opening 6.9.2024

5-7pm

Remnants.

Holly Walker - Will Bennett - George Turner

There is no reflection of home in the pine while there is still no comfort in the forest. These wind swept coasts may cool our heads, embrace us and house us but they do not forget. Scratch the surface and history remains. Six inches below chemical fuelled top soil, the embers still glow.

In a time of ecological upheaval and social reflection, Remnants explores the intersections of Pākehā identity, ecology, and the journey toward reconciliation in Aotearoa. Holly Walker, Will Bennett and George Turner each present distinct practices which are unified by a shared commitment to interrogating what it means to inhabit these lands as Pākehā and to navigate the complexities of belonging in a place with the open wounds of a colonial past.

Remnants aims to show Pākehā the need to embrace their identity. Through cultural motifs, reimaginings and satire, Remnants presents a case to welcome our collective pasts and not escape it. The exhibition intends to encourage Pākehā to understand the weight of history, recognize privilege, and accept responsibility. As Aotearoa faces an urgent call to address both environmental degradation and the legacies of colonisation, the role of Pākehā must be one of empathy; it necessitates active engagement, a commitment to listening, and a willingness to learn. How do we reconcile with the past while nurturing a future that respects and upholds Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the rights of tangata whenua? Remnants poses this critical question, encouraging reflection on what it means to be Pākehā today.

The remnants of colonialism continue to shape contemporary Pākehā identity in Aotearoa, embedding layers of inherited privilege, cultural disconnection, and a complex relationship with the land and its original peoples. These remnants manifest in both visible structures—like laws, property rights, and social hierarchies—and in the less tangible, yet pervasive, narratives that frame Pākehā belonging and power. There are also physical remnants such as the litter of brick, steel and now plastic that is scattered throughout Aotearoa. As Pākehā, we must acknowledge our shared histories, understand the trauma and consequences of colonisation, and recognise the privileges that come with it. It is about seeking ways to contribute positively to the collective well-being of all who call Aotearoa home, particularly Māori, by honouring their knowledge, tikanga, and sovereignty.

Remnants explores a pathway toward this through the act of reconnecting with our ancestors and reclaiming and reimagining the remnants of our past. By understanding our own whakapapa and the historical contexts that shaped our presence here, we can confront the often uncomfortable truths of our past and use this knowledge to foster a more just and sustainable future. Walker, Bennett and Turner invite viewers to reflect on their own identities and responsibilities, to question, to unlearn, and to relearn.

Together, their works offer a vision of Pākehā which is informed by a respect for the land, an understanding of shared histories, and a commitment to co-creating a future that honours the diverse narratives of Aotearoa. It is a call to reconnect—with the land, with each other, and with the past—in order to create a more equitable future.



Recycled Pine
Photogrammetry, 3D
640 x 840 x 80mm



Recycled Pine
Photogrammetry, 3D
640 x 840 x 80mm



Relics of the Forest (2024)
Triptych



Recycled Pine
Photogrammetry, 3D
640 x 840 x 80mm



Install at Bowen Gallery