

As uninvited guests we pay our respects to the First Peoples of this Continent and acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woiwurrung People of the Kulin Nation as the ongoing Custodians of the Country on which this event is taking place. We recognise that sovereignty was never ceded and that these Lands always were, and always will be, Aboriginal Land.

Lomiga Lua: i Luga 'o le Moana ... Fa'amanatuina 'o le Gagana



Lomiga Lua: i Luga 'o le Moana ... Fa'amanatuina 'o le Gagana is a one night only event to celebrate Vaiaso 'o le Gagana Sāmoa for Sāmoan and other Oceania and First Nations Peoples, as well as friends and family.

Through food and art, we hope to cultivate a welcoming and community-led environment for people with Sāmoan ancestry to come together and celebrate language. The event will feature an array of artworks and activities by Sāmoan practitioners based in Naarm and beyond, including an umu, 'ie lavalava mark making and moving image works. By providing a space for the exploration of collective and individual Sāmoan identities, we aim to promote reclamation of pre-colonial ways of knowing while allowing for diasporic interpretations of culture.

This event is a safe space for Sāmoan self-expression, including fa'afafine, fa'atane and all other LGBTQIA+ identifying community, and our art reflects this.



*Tuesday 30 May, 6-9pm
Collingwood Yards, Wurundjeri Country*

Lomiga Lua: i Luga 'o le Moana ... Fa'amanatuina 'o le Gagana, translates to 'Issue Two: Over the Ocean/ Blue ... Language Celebration'. It is presented by *Leitu Bonnici's* practice, *Le Phém Era*, in collaboration with *Peter Lemalu* and with support from West Space, Centre for Projection Art, The Social Studio, Hope Street Radio, Composite Moving Image and Collingwood Yards.

Moving Image Works

Moving image works curated by Leitu Bonnici.

FAFSWAG, *Tulouna Le Lagi*, 2022.

This work is a visual interpretation of alagaupu (proverbs) used within Samoan funeral chants and speeches, utilising imagery from my personal photographic archive. An exploration into oral traditions that are still practised in contemporary Samoan life. The sound design is made to reflect the call and response nature of these rituals. This work is tied to the notion of legacy.

Louisa Afoa, *Pink Flamingo II, A pool is not the Ocean*, 2017.

Prompted by her own experiences moving from her family home in Papakura to Torbay on Auckland's North Shore, Louisa Afoa's ongoing project *A Pool is not the Ocean* considers the agency of brown bodies in predominantly white spaces. Utilising self-portraiture and time-based media, these works offer a defiant response to prejudice, misconceptions and racism.

Building on ideas of vastness and sovereignty posited by Epeli Hau'ofa in his text *Our Sea of Islands*, Afoa's video works confront the inherently political site of the indigenous body, asserting her presence and her autonomy in the world.

Event Activities

Peter Lemalu, *Malo Lelei*, 2023.

When the youngsters seemed restless, the oldies would say 'malo le onosai'. Usually, with a gentle nod and a warm heart, they're saying 'you've worked very hard, and I see that. Well done.'

Leitu Bonnici, Peter Lemalu, Sia Tamausu and participants, *Afa'i e te ilo'a, e te ilo'a*, 2023.

Within a weave, each part forms many connections, making the whole stronger.

Luce Nguyễn-Hunt, *Aue My Endless Love*, 2022.

In Rarotonga, it is said that the creation of the universe began on the inside of a coconut.

Natasha Matila-Smith, *7 Minutes in Heaven*, 2021.

The idea of life, both online and offline, as being a kind of performance is played within *7 Minutes in Heaven*. While digital social networks and technologies disrupt and potentially erode spaces for genuine intimacy, Matila-Smith considers how to be an object of desire in any space.

Matila-Smith describes her works as being like an excerpt rather than a complete story, and although a feeling of ambiguity filters through *7 Minutes in Heaven*, an apparent monologue emerges within the held gaze of subject and viewer.

Leitu Bonnici and Peter Lemalu, *Never sure, always here*, 2023.

We think we know who we are, but we're not sure. We also don't know what we're doing, but we're still here.

West Space Window

Leitu Bonnici in collaboration with Alitasi Fatu, Denise Roberts, Moira Roberts and Numiamalepule Adrian Tuitama, *Lomiga Lua: i Luga 'o le Moana*, 2023.

The word 'sami' is used to describe the sea or ocean in gagana Sāmoa, but the word 'moana' can also be used and is shared as a word for ocean across multiple Nations of Moana Oceania. It can also mean the colour blue in gagana Sāmoa, as in 'lanumoana'. On the internet, blue is the default colour used to denote connection to other destinations in the form of hyperlinks.

This installation is the second iteration of a volume of publications that explore the link that exists between 'āiga across waters and geographies despite physical distance from each other, and from Sāmoa.

Alitasi Fatu was born in Faleasi'u, Sāmoa and currently lives in Tāmaki Makaurau. She enjoys creating music and sings in a band. She is proud to be Sāmoan and loves seeing her Oceania community thrive.

Denise Roberts was born in Faleasi'u, Sāmoa and currently lives on Kombumerri Country. She is studying to be a maths teacher, has a passion for learning about different languages and cultures, and feels a deep connection to her Sāmoan roots.

FAFSWAG was established in 2013 as an informal Queer arts collective from south Auckland. As artists and activists FAFSWAG is committed to social change through arts and innovation, producing bespoke cultural activations that are cutting edge, culturally responsive and socially relevant. Operating across a multitude of interdisciplinary art forms and genres, FAFSWAG artists work collaboratively to activate public and digital space, speaking to our contexts as Queer Indigenous arts practitioners.

Leitu Bonnici is a graphic designer, filmmaker and artist currently living and working across unceded Bunurong and Wurundjeri Lands. She is of Sāmoan, Italian, Maltese, Irish, English and Swedish ancestry (among others). Through a wide range of methods her work seeks to examine and disrupt the entrenched frameworks that dictate the recording and distribution of information. Leitu runs Le Phem Era, an interdisciplinary practice that critically examines ephemera in all its forms through experimental approaches to archiving and publishing.

Louisa Afoa (Nofoali'i, Pākeha) is an artist and educator based in Tāmaki Makaurau. Louisa was the previous co-director of RM gallery and co-founder of the arts criticism platform #500words. Her art practice often responds to lived experiences as a way to comment on social issues, while also giving insight into the lives of the communities that she belongs to. Afoa's recent 2021 group exhibitions include Ocean Memories, Kunsthalle, Hannover and Sāmoan Hxstories, Screens and Intimacies II, A Space Gallery, Toronto.

Luce Nguyễn-Hunt is an emerging artist and curator with a persisting interest in healing personal and community traumas through a predominantly lens-based installation practice. Drawing from their experiences as a Vietnamese, Sāmoan and Cook Islander person living in so-called Australia, Nguyễn-Hunt seeks to decolonise the self through reimagining and reconstructing the body and systems it exists within. As a gender-divergent person, much of their practice is centred around embracing duality and actively resisting the binary systems that Western society enforces.

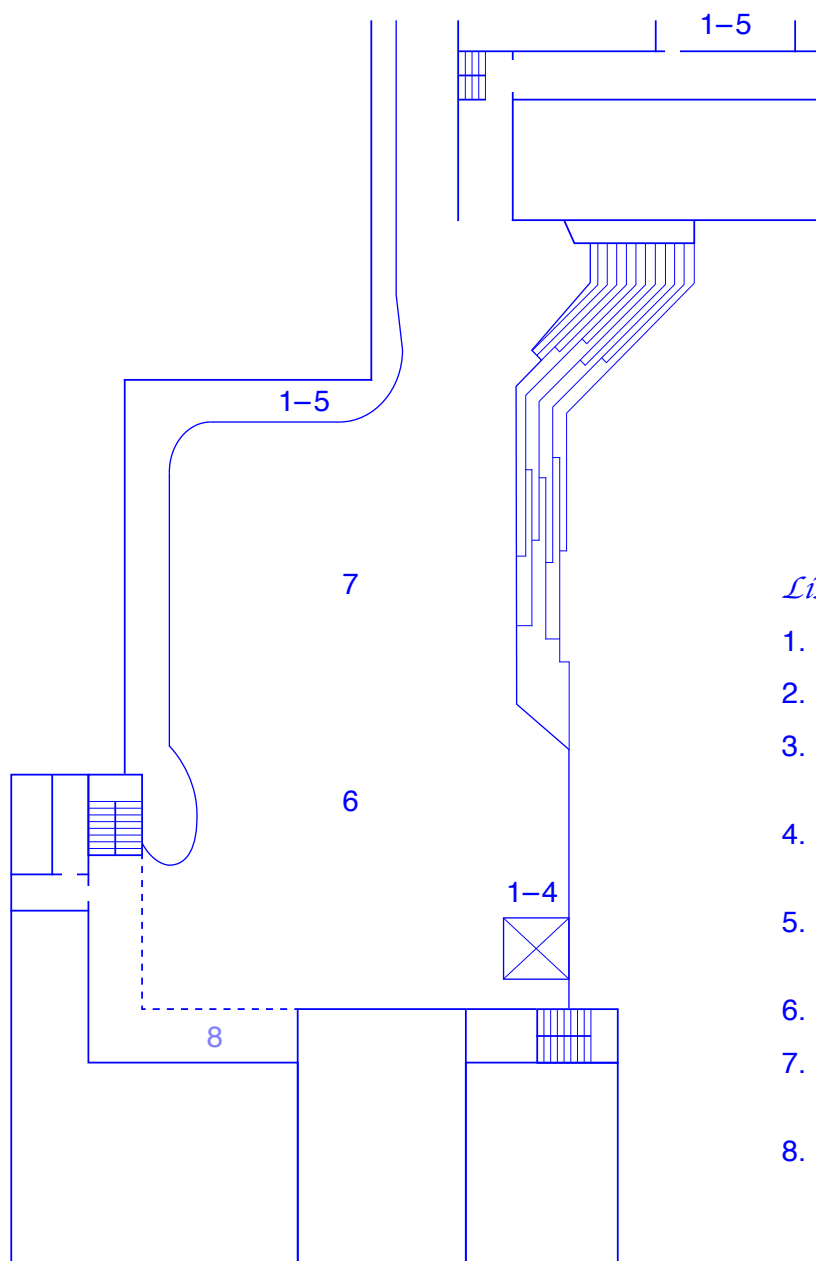
Maira Roberts was born in Faleasi'u, Sāmoa and currently lives on Kombumerri Country. She is studying to be a maths teacher, enjoys being creative and is a proud person of Oceania.

Natasha Matila-Smith (Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāti Hine, Samoan, Pākehā) is an arts practitioner based in Tāmaki Makaurau. Natasha's art practice explores amongst other things, the boundaries of online intimacy and indirectly, our metaphysical relationship with digital spaces. Through a body of confessional text-based works that have developed over time, Natasha uses a range of surfaces to verbalise unspeakable emotions about longing and unappeasable lust. In revealing the cross-current between outer and interior spaces, she tells a story of how colonial capitalism is embodied in intimate ways.

Numiamalepule Adrian Tuitama is of Sāmoan ancestry, was born in Tāmaki Makaurau and lives in Kirikiriroa. He is married with three children and seven grandchildren, likes singing and caring for others, has lived an eventful life and is over pālagi ways.

Peter Gabriel Lemalu is Australian born and Samoan raised. His art exudes a commitment to invest in all things creative. Predominantly a painter, Peter experiments in a wide range of mediums that allows him to centre a deep understanding of space to explore how the mind, body and spirit can operate within it. After completing a bachelors degree of Fine Arts at the Victorian College of the Arts in 2016, Peter's artworks have been refined to comment on his role of being of South Pacific descent and how the impact of cultural rituals of his Samoan heritage correlate with the complexities of contemporaneity. Within Peter's process of art making always lays a surface of sincere connectedness of the spiritual and emotional, with consideration of his relationship to his family by closely observing their growth and the world around them. The idea of discipline, repetition, and commitment encourage Peter to attain a greater awareness to connect art with his roots and culture.

Sia Theresa Tamausu is a young Samoan and Tongan performer. She has studied and trained within dance, acting and modelling industries. With cultural dance as her main discipline, Sia has also learned the cultural dances of Fiji, Cook Islands, Hawaii, Māori, Tonga and Sāmoa. Her passion lies within working with and for her Pasifika people, whatever the cause (or celebration), as she shares a deep sense of community.



List of Works

1. FAFSWAG, *Tūlouna Le Lagi*, 2022.
2. Luce Nguyễn-Hunt, *Aue My Endless Love*, 2022.
3. Louisa Afoa, *Pink Flamingo II, A pool is not the Ocean*, 2017.
4. Natasha Matila-Smith, *7 Minutes in Heaven*, 2021.
5. Leitu Bonnici and Peter Lemalu, *Never sure, always here*, 2023.
6. Peter Lemalu, *Malō Lelēi*, 2023.
7. Leitu Bonnici, Peter Lemalu, Sia Tamausu and participants, *Afai e te iloa, e te iloa*, 2023.
8. Leitu Bonnici in collaboration with Alitasi Fatu, Denise Roberts, Moira Roberts and Numiamalepule Adrian Tuitama, *Lomiga Lua: i Luga o le Moana*, 2023.