

Silent Screams of Memories

Telly Tuita

Curated by Brooke Pou

18 July – 29 August 2026

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Contemporary
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Silent Screams of Memories

Telly Tuita

Silent Screams of Memories is an exhibition by Telly Tuita exploring childhood memories through an adult lens. Tuita, who was born in Tonga, spent the first nine years of his life there before being sent to live in Australia. Decades removed from this period, he is able to respond to horror with humour in *Repressed Memories*, a newly commissioned series at the heart of this exhibition. A head with soap in its mouth, a hand next to an axe, a head through a wall—these confronting images evoke moments of trauma from his time in Australia, a land often lauded for the opportunity it can offer those who relocate there.

Tuita's new *Screaming Idol* series represents the artist's fourteen years of childhood—nine years in Tonga and five in Australia—before he was kicked out of home and forced into adulthood. Older works, including *The Great Land of Oz*, have also been recontextualised, becoming a wry commentary on nationhood and belonging. Presented alongside this installation is *Boy with Red Apple*, a short film by Jamie Berry exploring Tuita's earlier years in Tonga.

The darkness underpinning the exhibition has bled outward into *Silent Screams of Memories*' visual form. Dominated by black, the exhibition marks a striking aesthetic departure for Tuita, who is known for his use of bright colours.

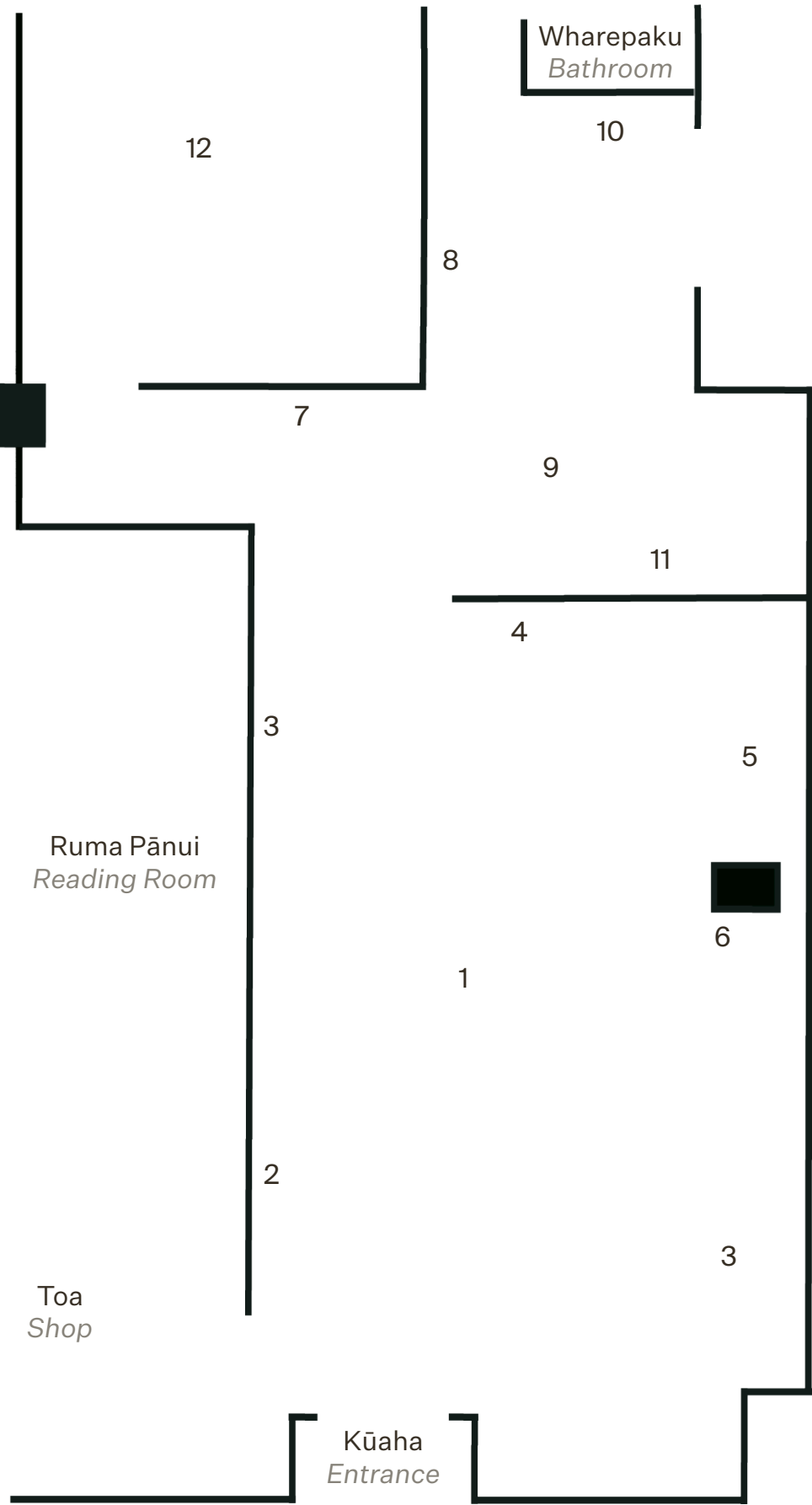
Mā te whakaaturanga nei a *Silent Screams of Memories* ka hoki mahara a Telly Tuita ki tētahi wā i tōna tamarikitanga. Kua whānau mai a Tuita i Tonga, kua tipu ake ia i reira tae noa atu ki tōna huringa iwa tau. Kātahi kua tukuna ia ki Te Whenua Moemoeā e tapaina e tauwi ko Ahitereiria.¹ Mai kōnei kua pakeke ia, kua hipa ngā tekau tau, otirā kua māwhe iho te mamae o taua wā; ka huri a Tuita me tōna tiro pukuhoe ki ōna wheako mōkinokino i a e taitamariki ana. I te punipuni hanganga nei a *Repressed Memories* nā Enjoy i tono, kitea atu ai ngā whakaatanga parangēki, hei tauira, ko tētahi ūpoko e kai hōpi ana, ko tētahi ringa ki te taha o tētahi toki, waihoki ko tētahi māhunga whakaputāina atu mā tētahi pātū, ka rangona te ngākau kōhukihuki i ahu mai i tōna tukunga ki Ahitereiria, ahakoa pāpāhotia rā taua whenua hei wāhi whāinga nui mā ngā manuhiri e tau atu ai.

E tohu atu ana tōna punipuni hanganga hou a *Screaming Idol* i ōna tau tekau mā whā tāmanga, arā ōna iwa tau i Tonga me ōna rima tau i Ahitereiria, ki mua mai o tōna panaina atu i te kāinga ki waho e putu ana, me tōna oho pakeke māna ake ia hei tiaki. Kua whai horopaki hou anō ētahi hanganga nōna mai mua. Ko *The Great Land of Oz* tētahi. I tēnei horopaki ka whakaatu āhua orotaha ngā āria o te ‘nationhood’ me te whakatanga-tawhenuatanga. Tāpiri mai ai a tō Jamie Berry kiriata poto a *Boy with Red Apple* e whātorotoro ana i ō Tuita tau reremua i Tonga.

E mōhiotia tō Tuita hanganganga toi i ngā tae muramura, engari papī mai ai te pōkēkē ki ngā āhua a *Silent Screams of Memories*. Takiuru ana tēnei whakaaturanga i te mangu, i te uriuri. Otirā ka tohu atu tēnei whakaaturanga i tētahi huringa aro mā Tuita.

Te reo Māori translation by Heidi Brickell.

1. Kua maua te ingoa a Ahitereiria i tēnei tuhinga e kē ana i te ingoa take-take ake a Te Whenua Moemoeā i runga i te horopaki tāmitanga o taua whenua e tohu atu ana me te hāngai o ngā pāpānga tāmitanga ki tō Tuita horopaki.



Telly Tuita, *Silent Screams of Memories*, 2026

This exhibition includes artworks with themes that some might find confronting or distressing.

1. *Screaming Idol* series, 2026
Driftwood, acrylic paint. 14 idols placed throughout the gallery.
2. *Repressed Memories series: Head through Wall*, 2026
CNC routed macrocarpa, spray paint. Fabricated by Hamish Garry.
3. *The Great Land of Oz*, 2023
Mixed media diptych. Commissioned by Campbelltown Arts Centre.
4. *Unknown Horizon*, 2026
Ta'ovala Putu.
5. *Alien Arrival*, 2001
Photograph. Commissioned by Campbell Town Arts Centre.
6. *'Uli'uli Elphaba*, 2026
Woven bowl, ribbons, paper, spray paint.
7. *Repressed Memories series: Hands holding Apple*, 2026
CNC routed macrocarpa, spray paint, plastic apple. Fabricated by Hamish Garry.
8. *Repressed Memories series: Bar of Soap in Mouth*, 2026
CNC routed macrocarpa, spray paint, clay soap. Fabricated by Hamish Garry.
9. *Mobiles #1 Tokelau Feletoa, #2 Tokelau Feletoa, #3 Kalou*, 2026
MDF, spray paint, ribbons, found shells and toys.
10. *Kuli #10, #21 (R.I.P), #37, #47*, 2020
Ceramic, spray paint.
11. *Repressed Memories series: Hand with Axe*, 2026
CNC routed macrocarpa, spray paint. Fabricated by Hamish Garry.
12. *Jamie Berry, Boy with Red Apple*, 2026
Video with sound, 8:46mins. Commissioned by Telly Tuita.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS | MŌ NGĀ RINGATOI

Telly Tuita is recognised for the way his work brings together Pacific heritage, personal narrative, and bold visual language. Tuita coined the term ‘Tongpop’ to celebrate the artist’s rich relationship with his ancestral home of Tonga, as well as his lived experiences in Australia and Aotearoa. Within his practice of video, photography, painting, sculpture and installation, Tuita navigates ideas of home and belonging, identity, and self-worth. His work encapsulates an experience lived between two realities.

E mōhiotia whānuitia tō Telly Tuita whakaputanga toi i te tuituitanga o tōna aho Moana-nui-a-Kiwa ki ōna ake pūrākau matawhaiaro, me tōna reo ataata pākaha hoki. Nānā ake te kīanga a ‘Tongpop’ i tuku hei kupu whakatairanga i tōna hononga haumako ki tōna whenua a Tonga, me te kawenga o taua tuākiri ki Aotearoa, ki Ahitereiria hoki. Mā ngā ataata rau e whakamahi ana a Tuita, arā ko te kiriata, te whakaāhua, te peita, te hanganga ahutoru, me te titonga mokowā, ka urungi a Tuita i waenganui i ngā māramatanga o te kāinga me te tūrangawaewae, waihoki i waenganui i te tuākiri me te kiritautanga.

Jamie Berry is a multidisciplinary artist of Te Aitanga-a-Mahaki, Rongowhakaata, Ngāti Porou, Ngāpuhi, and Ngāti Ruanui descent. Her work explores Aotearoa histories and reflects on her identity and place. Originally from Tūranganui-a-kiwa and now residing in Pōneke, Jamie’s practice is grounded in her whakapapa and focuses on the past, present, and future. She reimagines stories through various media, including digital content, DNA soundscapes, moving images, and installations.

He ringarehe rawatoi rau nō Te Aitanga-a-Mahaki, nō Rongowhakaata, nō Ngāti Porou, nō Ngāpuhi, nō Ngāti Ruanui hoki a Jamie Berry. E tūhura ana ōna toi i ngā hītori o Aotearoa i runga i te kaupapa o te tuākiri me te tūrangawaewaetanga. I tipu ake a Jamie i Tūranganui-a-Kiwa, ā i ēnei rā noho ai ia ki Te Whānganui a Tara. Ko tō Jamie whakapapa te pūtake o āna mahi toi e aronui ana ki te wā ki mua, te wā i nāia nei, me te wā e heke mai nei kōtahi. E ahu anō mai ana ia i ngā pūrākau mā ngā rawatoi maha, pērā ki te tūhanga matihiko, te oro ā-ira, te hopunga ataata me te puningatōi.

Brooke Pou (Ngāpuhi | Ngāi Te Rangi) is a writer and curator in Te Whānganui-a-Tara. She has an enduring interest in the ways politics and art overlap, material culture of the Moana, and performance. Brooke’s background studying art history and experience working a range of gallery roles informs a holistic curatorial approach to developing and delivering exhibitions. She has been Kairauhi Curator at Enjoy Contemporary Art Space since 2023.

He kaituhi a Brooke Pou, he kairauhī, he uri nō Ngāpuhi, nō Ngāi Te Rangi hoki. E aro matatū ai a Brooke ki ngā takiwā whakawhiti ai ngā kaupapa tōrangapū me ngā mahi toi. E noho pokapū ana ngā taunaki ōkiko o ngā ahurea Moana-nui-a-Kiwa i roto i tōna uru pounamu. Ka aro hoki ia ki ngā toi whakaari ā-tinana. Nā tāna paetohu Tāhūhū Toi me ngā kohinga wheako rerekē hei kaimahi i ngā horopaki toi, i ahu mai tētahi mātāpono torowhārahi hei ārahi i āna mahi rauhi katoa.