

TeTuhi

13 February 2021 –
9 May 2021

A Very Different World
curated by Ngahiraka Mason



Lisa Boivin, *Ventilator for our mother*, 2020. Digital collage photograph. Image courtesy of Lisa Boivin.

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Russ Flatt, *Complicit*, 2019. Inkjet photograph on Ilford cotton rag. Courtesy of the artist and Tim Melville Gallery.

A Very Different World is a platform to focus on wellbeing and a much-needed glimmer of hope for the future. Who is not seeking a breath of fresh air? Sparking this idea is a belief in a second chance for humanity. Innovative and revolutionary ideas are often born out of dire conditions and humanitarian issues. If creative ideas are the lifeblood of artists, Covid-19 points us to untold opportunities to express forbearance. Experience changes up everything. Offering this direction is a cadre of intergenerational artists from Aotearoa New Zealand, Tonga, Canada, and Hawai'i, with striking photography and painting, never-before-seen sculpture, textiles, ceramic, film, and an interactive installation.

A Very Different World by Ngahiraka Mason

A very different world emerged in 2020, marked by a global pandemic and the *Black Lives Matter* movement's politicization. Humankind is hurting. Bearing down on ordinary people is crushing poverty and health inequalities. Racism and prejudice and living with historical trauma have not faded with time. News broadcasts remind us we face the fastest period of extinction. Humans have caused reprehensible environmental damage, and economic disaster looms. These catastrophes are created by the hands and minds of people.

A Very Different World is a platform to focus on wellbeing and a much-needed glimmer of hope for the future. Who is not seeking a breath of fresh air? Sparking this idea is a belief in a second chance for humanity. Innovative art movements and revolutionary ideas are often born out of dire conditions and humanitarian issues. If creative ideas are the lifeblood of artists, Covid-19 is directing us to untold opportunities to express forbearance.

Life-altering propositions are rare, and we are experiencing the most remarkable change in a generation. Helping guide our transition and aspects of personal, foundational, and societal transformation are artists Russ Flatt, Hiria Anderson, Reuben Paterson, Arielle Walker, Maraea Timutimu, Dion Hitchens, Elliot Collins, Aaron Scythe, Emily Parr, Jaimie Waititi, Jasmine Tuiā, Jordan Snyder, Kereama Hohua, Tanya Te Miringa Te Rorarangi Ruka and Visessio Siasau. The exhibition is led by Tāngata Māori, Pacific, and Aotearoa New Zealand artists. They are joined by First Nations Canadian artists Lisa Boivin and Kent Monkman and Native Hawaiian artist Verna Apio-Takashima.

Notes to editors

About Ngahiraka Mason



Ngahiraka Mason. Photo by Pākē Salmon, 2020.

Ngahiraka Mason (Tūhoe, Te Arawa, and Ngāti Pango) is an independent curator, critic, and visual historian with research and curatorial interests in the material culture and histories of Polynesian peoples and community relationships with museums and collections. Mason is the former Indigenous Curator, Māori Art at Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki, Aotearoa New Zealand. Her exhibitions and publications focus on historical, modern, and contemporary art. Recent projects include *Wananga/Wanana* (2019) at Bishop Museum, Honolulu; *Honolulu Biennial: Middle of Now/Here*, the inaugural Honolulu Biennial (2017) and the international touring exhibition *Gottfried Lindauer's New Zealand* (2014–16). She has published in *American Quarterly* (2020), and presented at the International Committee for Museums and Collections of Modern Art (CIMAM) conference (2019) and at NIRIN, the 22nd Biennale of Sydney (2020). Mason is a founding trustee of the Wairau Māori Art Gallery Charitable Trust, Whangārei, and a former trustee on the Te Māori Manaaki Taonga Trust. Mason lives and works in Honolulu, Hawai'i.

About Te Tuhi

Te Tuhi is one of Aotearoa New Zealand's foremost contemporary art spaces and a leader in supporting experimental practice. Te Tuhi is committed to contemporary art that is locally engaged, regionally responsive and internationally ambitious, with a strong awareness of social, political and environmental issues. Te Tuhi is an independent charitable trust with principal funding from Auckland Council and the Contemporary Art Foundation. Our annual programme includes four seasons of group and solo exhibitions, live events, and regular offsite projects including billboards on Reeves Road and Parnell Station. Our exhibitions are free and open to all.

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