

09 07 25

a sovereign image, at my age, reads iwa, whitu, rua tekau mā rima, curious as I appraise the land my eyes run along the range. a rite of passage which coincides with the month Hōngongoi¹, as if I am a child again and have misunderstood, *the land doesn't care for my concept of territorial authority?*²

a ubiquitous yellow crust of the day, the acrid fruit of my twenties. I'd undergone the same observation of the tree. a confronting doppelgänger of an empty bog and muddied shoes. I'm suspicious of returning to these sites.

i am learning to live without myself within your image. i've been wondering about this paradox. only a few weeks remain until you've circumvented my needs, and our attention shifts toward your future, not mine. my sense of urgency to scaffold a pedagogy for my own learning; the distance from *where we were from* and the reality of *where we lived*, will be of any relevance to you?

¹ Hōngongoi is the second phase of the maramataka, a period of wānanga and reflection.

² ahi kā is to exercise one's title of the land, a metaphoric expression today of keeping fires burning.

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Aidan Taira Geraghty

Bri Leone-Rhea Lawrence

Curated by James Tapsell-Kururangi

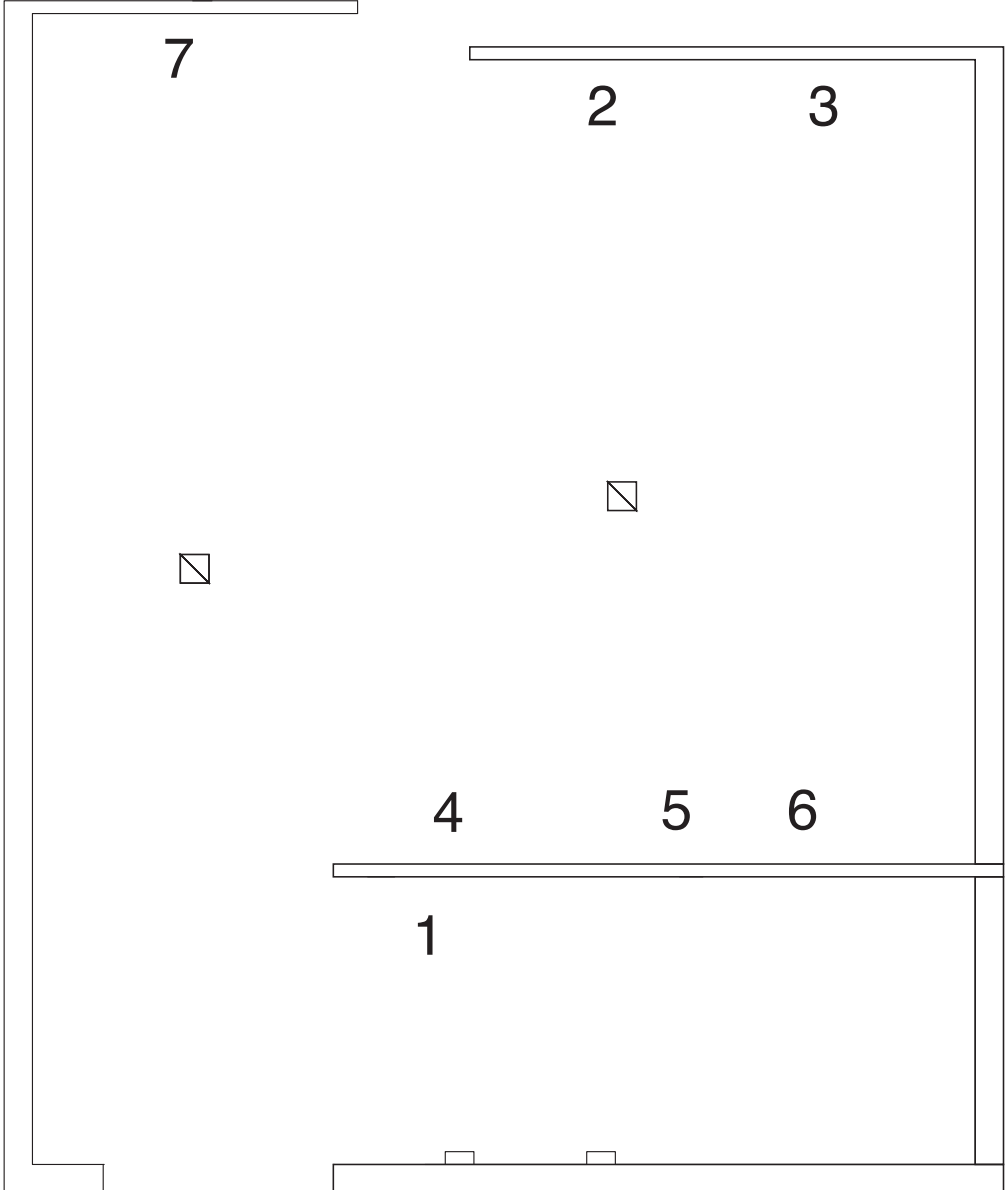
29 August — 19 October 2025

09 07 25 is an exhibition with artists Bri Leone-Rhea Lawrence and Aidan Taira Geraghty. An auspicious date on which the artists expressed a desire to get to know one another, prior to presenting their work. Their series of photographs stand in as documentation, of ground covered in their recent years, on truth, self-belief, and knowledge systems that are inseparable from their biography. The photographs identify particular strategies to unpack their genealogical connection to their family stories.

The āhua of the exhibition is a warm invitation to sit with their irreconcilable ideas about distance, accountability, inheritance, beauty, boredom.

Aidan Taira Geraghty (Ngāi Tahu–Ngāi Tūāhuriri, Kāti Huirapa ki Puketeraki) is an artist who lives in Ōtepoti, Te Waipounamu. He is currently completing an MFA at the Dunedin School of Art, Otago Polytechnic, and holds a Bachelor of Visual Arts in Contemporary Sculpture. His most recent exhibitions include: *Migratory Patterns* (2025) group exhibition at CoCA Centre of Contemporary Art Toi Moroki, Ōtautahi; *Paemanu: Awa Toi* at the Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art in Queensland (2024); *Kia whakatōmuri te haere whakamua / Home is where the kai is* 2024 at Te Tuhi, Tāmaki Makaurau; *Ka Kore, Kua Kore* (2023), a collaborative show with Moewai Marsh at Blue Oyster-Art Project Space.

Bri Leone-Rhea Lawrence (Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairoa) is an artist based in Ōtautahi. She holds a Bachelor of Art & Design specialising in Photography from Ara Institute of Canterbury, and was recognised with the Eke Panuku awards. Bri is a recent recipient of the Toi Ōtautahi Incubator Programme and resident photographer for Queer Horizons Ōtautahi. Her work was included in *Whakawhanaungatanga* (2023) at CoCA Centre of Contemporary Art Toi Moroki, Ōtautahi.



1. Aidan Taira Geraghty, *Ko wai au?*, 2024. Digital print. Commissioned by Te Tuhi.
2. *Anamata*, 2024. Digital print.
3. *Onamata*, 2024. Digital print.
4. Bri Leone-Rhea Lawrence, *Pau*, 2025. Digital print on Hahnemühle.
- 5–6. *Whakapau*, 2025. Diptych, digital print on Hahnemühle.
7. *Nanny Lovey*, 2025. Digital print on Hahnemühle.

Bri would like to acknowledge Nanny Lovey, Aunty Charmaine, Aunty Flo and Uncle Pu, Ilam School of Fine Arts, Conor Clarke, Aidan Moody, Jamie Price and Toi Ōtautahi. Aidan would like to thank Ella Cameron-Smith, Mere Taua, David Geraghty, Vicki Lenihan, Te Marino Lenihan, Waiariki Parata-Taiapa, Suzanne Ellison and Paemanu.