

Dalosa, Lafo & Iva

Lolani Dalosa
Ma'alo Lafo
Axel Iva

28.03.2025 —
18.05.2025

This exhibition guide was made on the occasion of:

Dalosa, Lafo & Iva
The Physics Room
28.03.2025–18.05.2025.

Dalosa, Lafo & Iva is co-commissioned by Te Tuhi and The Physics Room, with the support of Canterbury Museum and The Arts Centre Te Matatiki Toi Ora.

**THE
PHYSICS
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Lolani Dalosa is a Samoan and Filipino artist and curator, raised in Tāmaki Makaurau. His father is from Eastern Samar in the Philippines, and his mother hails from the village of Lepea, Samoa. Dalosa is a co-founder of the South Auckland design and art collective 'Raroboy's'. His practice encompasses mixed media, design, printmaking, and photography. Dalosa is interested in cultural iconography, featuring recognisable characters and objects from his visual lexicon. Dalosa's most recent exhibitions include *Character Studies*, 2024 at Te Tuhi, and *Someone's at The Door*, 2023 at Papakura Art Gallery, and was included in *Do Not Alter*, 2021 at Corban Estate Arts Centre, and *Cross My Heart*, 2022 at The Nix. Dalosa was the recipient of the 2023 Oceanic Internship with Tautai and Te Uru, and curator of *Raroboy's Vol.3*, 2024 at Studio One Toi Tū.

Ma'alo Lafo is an artist hailing from the villages of Falealili & Taufusi. Raised in Tāmaki Makaurau, Lafo is a lens-based practitioner who documents his local community in Ōtara, friends and family. He is an active member of the South Auckland Photoclub, and was the recipient of the 2024 Vuli Tara Mentoring Programme with Moana Fresh.

Dubbed Axel Iva—a Samoan artist with bloodlines from Apolima, Iva, Salelavalu, and Salelologa, born and based in Māngere East, Tāmaki Makaurau. Iva's creative practice involves craft and design, ranging from tactile techniques to technological applications. His exploration of semantics, semiotics and Samoan life catalyse his seriocomic pieces and concepts. Iva was a 2023 recipient of the Tautai Fale-ship artist's residency, during which he completed the series *A'E, I.O.U.*, a 17-piece, mixed media homeware collection, indexed according to the Samoan alphabet.

Warren Olds studied printmaking with Marilyn Webb in Ōtepoti. His practice involves working with artists to realise design projects. Together with Gwynneth Porter he established Clouds in June 2007, an independent arts publisher based in Aotearoa. Olds has designed and produced books with d.harding, Fiona Connor, Nick Austin, Oscar Enberg, Bruce Russell, Kate Newby, Simon Denny, Sriwhana Spong, and Ava Seymour among others. He lives in Ōtautahi and his most recent project is *Sāmaria* with Ōtara-based artist Ma'alo Lafo.

Dalosa, Lafo & Iva with artists Lolani Dalosa, Ma'alo Lafo and Axel Iva

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Dalosa, Lafo & Iva is a group exhibition curated by James Tapsell-Kururangi. The exhibition presents newly commissioned artwork, through the mediums of photography, sculpture and installation. *Dalosa, Lafo & Iva* prioritises the relationships we hold, with ourselves, each other, past images, an index of names, and a whakataukī.

The exhibition features new commissions by each of the artists, Lolani Dalosa, Ma'alo Lafo and Axel Iva. The conversation began in 2024 between curator James Tapsell-Kururangi and Edith Amituanai while working together on the artist development programme Papatūnga at Te Tuhi in Tāmaki Makaurau. At the time, Amituanai was working with artist Ma'alo Lafo as his mentor for an external mentoring programme at Moana Fresh. This exhibition brings the three artists together with the intention of continuing to create pathways for early-career Pasifika artists. Amituanai is the tuakana for the exhibition. The reciprocal model of tuakana-teina scaffolds learning and the relationship is equally important when working together as Māori and Pasifika.

PRIORITISING THE RELATIONSHIPS WE HOLD
 THIS EXHIBITION IS THAT KINDA CONVERSATION YOU MIGHT HAVE WITH
 YOURSELF WHEN FEELING
 APATHETIC
 CONFIDENT.
 IT IS BIGGER THAN THE PAST IMAGES
 THE MOUNTAINS
 BUT LOOKS FAMILIAR TO THE INTERIOR OF YOUR
 BEDROOM, WINDOW.
 IT GIVES AN INDEX OF NAMES
 BUT NOTHING LEADS TO
 THE FUTURE
 ONLY A P.O.V. FROM UNDER THE OCEAN

1. Ma'alo Lafo, *Sāmaria*, 2025.

56 page photobook, cloth-bound with colour images. 307 x 222 x 10mm.
Designed by Warren Olds.

2. Axel Iva, *VILT*, 2025.

Twinwall polycarbonate and PVC tubing. 2600 (H) x 1800 (W) x 1800mm (L).

3. Axel Iva, *Logbook*, 2025.

Twinwall polycarbonate, resin, cord, transparency sheets, PVC tubing, clingfilm, corrugated PVC. 310 x 310 x 140mm.

4 – 6. Lolani Dalosa, *TELEFONI SO'O*, 2024.

Anodised aluminium, lasercut. 470 x 240 (4), 450 x 460 (5), 1970 x 720mm (6).

