

Abigail Aroha Jensen
→ *Frog World*, 2026

Frog World builds on Abigail Aroha Jensen's exhibition *Inside my papahou: puoro tuatini. Her site, Désirée - ā whakamātao owha*, commissioned by Te Tuhi and the Busan Biennale Committee for *Busan Biennale 2024*. This work brought together field recordings of taonga pūoro resonating through the ruins of the Tokomaru Bay Freezing Works, alongside a series of concrete boxes featuring objects and traces from Jensen's own *papahou* (treasure box), such as a pāua shell saved from her first meal in Busan or lipstick kisses.

Frog World continues Jensen's conceptual exploration of papahou as the carrier from which she creates and learns. While in Busan for the 2024 Busan Biennale, she participated in a puppet-making workshop led by the Indonesian artist collective Taring Padi, where she made a cardboard frog.

In *Frog World*, Jensen presents an upscaled version of the frog she made in South Korea, which has travelled with her ever since. Inside are fragments of her own world—perfume cards, pill boxes, a handbag—ephemeral objects collected during her travels. Together, they transform the frog not only into a giant papahou, but a theatre: an expanded vessel for everyday taonga collected through acts of life. The work is accompanied by a 12-channel “sonic tukutuku” which is how she frames her sound practice. *Frog World* is scored from recordings gathered by Jensen in South Korea, Japan, Thailand and Aotearoa, as well as recordings sent to her by her Instagram followers.

Artwork caption

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Frog: corrugated cardboard, rough sawn box grade timber, nail plates, Resene SpaceCote low sheen waterborne enamel interior (tree frog) wood varnish, 3M Scotch double sided mounting tape extreme mega roll, paint stick (non-toxic), butchers paper, craft paper roll, builders pencil, acrylic fluid, gesso, adhesive spray, CRC 550ml ADOS ultra high strength spray adhesive.

CARDBOARD CUT OUTS

David's Emporium dumpster

Lady: acrylic, gesso, paint stick(non-toxic), pilot ink, felt tip, builders pencil, Resene SpaceCote flat washable wall and ceiling exterior/interior waterborne enamel, PVA, gorilla tape, masking tape, metallic vinyl, butchers paper.

Butterfly Lace: butchers paper, craft paper roll, builders pencil, acrylic fluid, crayon, gesso, adhesive spray, Resene SpaceCote flat washable wall and ceiling exterior/interior waterborne enamel, CRC 550ml ADOS ultra high strength spray adhesive.

Handbag: Gesso, paint, acrylic fluid, penk,masking tape, PVA, RUST-OLEUM painters touch paint and primer, gorilla tape.

Editions de Parfums, Dominique Ropion by Frederic Malle "Portrait Of A Lady" Perfume card: butchers paper, carpet tape, masking tape, Resene SpaceCote flat washable wall and ceiling exterior/interior waterborne enamel, gorilla tape, coffee, lipstick,

mascara, paint stick(non-toxic), kiwas dirty footprints,
indian ink, OGT “La femme” eau de parfume

Rose: dowling, butchers paper, cardboard, masking
tape, paint stick(non-toxic), acrylic fluid, crayon, PVA,
Resene SpaceCote flat washable wall and ceiling
exterior/interior waterborne enamel, primer, coloured
pencil.

twelve-channel sound

35 mins 58 secs

commissioned by Te Tuhi, Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland

About the artist

Abigail Aroha Jensen is an artist who lives in Kirikiriroa, Hamilton. She holds a BMA from Waikato Institute of Technology with Honours from Toihoukura, School of Māori Visual Arts. Recent exhibitions include: cab-sous vide, The Dowse Art Museum (2024); Inside my papahou: puoro tuatini. Her site, Désirée - ā whakamātao owha, commissioned by Te Tuhi and the Busan Biennale Committee for 2024 Busan Biennale; Glittering Images, Grace Aotearoa (2024); Spring Time is Heart-break: Contemporary Art in Aotearoa, Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetū (2023); Old/Niu, A Drawing Showcase with Māpura Avondale Artist Group, All Goods Artspace (2023); Rope Play (I-IV), sites across Tāmaki Makaurau, Pōneke and Köln (2022-23); R.Boudoir, RM (2022); Ata Koia!, Te Tuhi (2022); Te Pō, Papatūnga (2022). She was the recipient of the 2025 Caselberg Trust Residency in Dunedin, and of the 2025 Gasworks Residency in London.