

TAUTAI

CONTEMPORARY PACIFIC ARTS TRUST

JUNE 2009

janet lilo original gangsta



Abrio featuring Soul Chef (2006) video still



On Queenz (2004) video stills

Janet Lilo has an acute consciousness of the politics of representation; her work as a visual artist, social commentator and community documenter is a breath of fresh air for the contemporary Pacific arts sector. As an active recorder of lifestyles and landscapes, homes, communities and individuals, Lilo consistently offers informed and respectful insights into contemporary daily life for urban New Zealanders. Combining a savvy conceptual approach with spatial awareness and a clever framework of popular culture and hip-hop, Lilo's gallery practice makes an impact, drawing crowds and stimulating dialogue.

Since graduating from AUT with a Master of Art and Design in 2007, Lilo has gone on to hold three solo exhibitions and feature in numerous group shows from Hawai'i to Taiwan, New Plymouth to Otago. On the official New Zealand

delegation at the 10th Festival of Pacific Arts, Lilo represented a rooted New Zealand flavour and confidence that connected readily with the pan-Pacific audience. In May, Lilo's hard work and commitment was recognised when she was selected as the first New Zealand artist to undertake a visual arts residency in Sapporo, Japan under the JENESYS residency programme.

Creating a video log archive of people and trends, communities and performance, Lilo's practice is as steeped in localism as it is informed by global media and music. Her heritage of Maori (Ngapuhi), Niuean and Samoan ancestry grant her insight and perhaps the innate ability to translate, manoeuvre within and re-present stories of communities that she is part of.

Hip-hop music has been an ongoing influence in Lilo's life and work. In 2004, in response to

New Zealand's televised version of American Idol, she began a body of work called, *On Queenz* documenting people on Queen Street in central Auckland on a single night during March. Endeavouring to collate a series of *vox populi* depicting everyday people performing, singing and rapping, Lilo created her own version of New Zealand rap idol. She continued the work in 2005, on the same night, in the same location. Her interest in performance and interpretations of popular culture are further recognised in her ongoing video documentation of Jigga Jo Thug. Jigga's passionate performances lip syncing to the likes of Justin Timberlake, Scribe and Tupac Shakur evoke ideas around exhibitionism and the impact of American popular culture on New Zealand young people.

At the core of Lilo's work is a relationship with her subjects; she is regarded as a trusted and

respected documenter which imparts a strong sense of accountability to the cultural languages she represents. In her 2006 experimental documentary, *Whipping Boy*, Lilo's siblings become collaborators in the work. Part documentary, part video drawing, Lilo uses sound and narrative to explore the then current trend amongst young people in Auckland of creating loud cracking noises with a whipping motion using a length of fabric. Lilo explains that collaborating with her family and community is a way to give them access to the work she makes, "my work isn't made purely for galleries, it is shown in homes and it belongs to the communities it represents."

Collaboration has become a defining characteristic of Lilo's video works. In 2006, she undertook a project to produce a series of music videos for local hip-hop artists Abrio, Bronze Chyld and Dr Seuss. Whilst the videos were produced on a shoestring budget, Lilo was able to translate the lyrical narratives and direction of the music and artists into beautifully crafted and sophisticated videography. *Struggle of an Emcee*, a documentary style enquiry produced at the same time provides context and uncovers stories and relationships the artists have with the global culture of hip-hop. This body of work was selected by curator Heather Galbraith for the prestigious biannual Telecom Prospect show at Wellington's City Gallery.

Lilo's noted 2007 solo exhibition, *TOP16* curated by Louise Tu'u for St Paul Street Gallery 3 introduced the virtual space and phenomenon of Bebo, the social networking site of choice for



many Pacific and Maori youth, to a traditional gallery context. The exhibition's one-week showing attracted much attention; Lilo's concerns with popular culture and time-based documentation informed a website-like installation where viewers moved from space to space, connected by text and photos, video and sound.

In 2008, *TOP16* was re-developed for Fresh Gallery Otara, a Manukau City Council facility servicing a primary audience of local New Zealand-born Polynesian and Maori youth. In a smaller gallery space, Lilo installed four video works, a full-sized picnic table, a sculptural love heart and over 200 photos taken from Bebo profile pages. Over three weeks, the gallery's attendance records were tripled; as if holding up a mirror to contemporary life, the exhibition inspired rigorous response and dialogue around representation, the internet, accessibility, identity and visual culture.

From international fine arts institutions to local community and public galleries and auction houses, Lilo's social network website enquiry has proven hugely popular. In her current solo exhibition, *MyFace* for the Auckland Festival of Photography, the seventh manifestation of the original concept, Lilo has focused on a mass installation of provocative amateur photography commonly found on profile pages of social networking sites like MySpace and Facebook, in addition to Bebo. With seven showings over less than two years, the popularity of Lilo's web-based work mirrors the cyclical nature of popular culture; in one moment, out the next.

Like the content of her recent showings, Lilo's video work is largely available online. Documentation of exhibitions and video works are largely accessible via a simple Google search and Lilo's official website is planned for 2009.

"I don't have a selling practice; it's a sharing practise... Things are collaborative; it's not really just me." - Janet's future collaborative projects including planned works with Monique Redmond and S-AIR artists from Japan as well as an exhibition about hair straightening is planned for August 2009.

As one of the youngest board members, Lilo brings invaluable insight to the Tautai Board; her contribution to the Pacific art sector brings a freshness and realness to our ongoing representation within the New Zealand art scene both nationally and internationally.

Emma Tavola June 2009

tautai news

Ni sa bula vinaka

Le Folauga Exhibition

The 'Le Folauga : the past coming forward' exhibition held at Kaohsiung Museum of Fine Arts in Taiwan closed on 5 April 2009. A total of 56,841 people saw the exhibition over four months. Kaohsiung Museum produced an impressive catalogue plus other print material and gift items. A web catalogue for the Taiwan show has been added to that of the original exhibition which was held in Auckland in 2007. Both catalogues can be viewed at www.lefolauga.co.nz

Tautai Fresh Horizons

The first of the four scheduled Tautai Fresh Horizons workshops for 2009 took place in Waitakere City in April. We are constantly looking at ways of providing a new and interesting program for these secondary school workshops. The April workshop was the first to use a combination of music and moving image and this format was very well received by the workshop participants. We are most grateful to APRA whose support meant we were able to engage King Kapisi and Teremoana Rapley to work with Janet Lilo and Venusi Taumoepeau for

the three days. Our thanks to Unitec Waitakere for hosting the event in their studios.

Tautai Tertiary Visits

As part of its program to support tertiary students, Tautai engages a senior artist each year to make presentations at the five Auckland tertiary art institutions. John Ioane is that artist this year. John has visited several tertiary art institutions during the quarter. These contacts give students an opportunity to hear from and engage with a practicing artist. We appreciate John making time to do these visits for Tautai.

Tautai Tertiary Exhibition

The annual tertiary exhibition provides an opportunity for students from across the five tertiary art schools in Auckland to meet and work with their peers and take part in an exhibition. It also enables Tautai to provide an opportunity for emerging new curators to bring together a show. This year Charmaine 'Ilaiu is curating the exhibition 'Don't Pacify Me' at St Paul St Gallery 1 & 2. Eighteen student artists from the five tertiary institutions are taking part in the exhibition which opened on 25 June. Tautai is grateful to Dr Leonhard Emmerling and the staff of St Paul St

Gallery for their support with this project.

Tautai Board and staff changes

In April 2009 Fulimalo Pereira resigned from the Tautai Board in order to take up a position with Creative New Zealand as an advisor. We thank Fuli for her contribution as a Tautai trustee. In February 2009 Marlaina Key joined Tautai as an administrative assistant and further increased her hours in the office in April 2009 when Daphiney Owen resigned. Our congratulations to Daphiney on the safe arrival of her new baby.

Tautai Subscriptions

Thank you to all of you who have paid a subscription for 2009 – it is greatly appreciated, and important to us. If you are still to pay a subscription for this year (\$25 for members and supporters and \$50 for organisations and corporates) please mail your cheque to the Tautai office or credit the Tautai bank account, ASB Bank, Karangahape Road Branch (account 123011-0316100-00) with your name as the reference please.

Vinaka vaka levu
Gina Cole (Chair)

don't pacify me

The annual Tautai Tertiary Exhibition opened on 25 June showing the work of eighteen senior student artists from the five Auckland art schools. As part of the Tautai policy to support new curators, Charmaine 'Ilaiu curated the show this year which is being held at St Paul St Galleries 1 and 2 until 10 July.

Participating artists are Ahilapalapa Rands, Amanda Warwick, Ane Tonga, Cerisse Palalagi, Claudia Jowitt, David Sun, Jeremy Leatinu'u,

Kalisolaite 'Uhila, Mele Mafile'o 'Uhamaka, Nooroa Tapuni, Paula Schaafhausen, Pelenato Liufau, Penitoa Finau, Petelo Esekielu, Samantha Atasani, Siliga Setoga, Vaimoana Eves and Victoria Patea.

As part of the program Tautai has over the past few weeks facilitated a number of meetings to bring the participating artists together. Along with preparing for the exhibition the meetings are also an opportunity for the students to widen

networks with their artist peers.

In her curatorial essay Charmaine 'Ilaiu writes "... the title Don't Pacify Me came after discussions with artists and is my perspective of their message. This dual statement rejects cultural art/artist stereotyping and reciprocally demands recognition simply as a fine artist." Tautai has documented this exhibition with a catalogue designed by Nooroa Tapuni.



Charmaine 'Ilaiu, Curator



Penitoa Finau 'Untitled'



Mele Mafile'o 'Uhamaka 'Lole suka'



Ane Tonga 'Koe Piliinisei moe fo'i piini'



Cerisse Palalagi 'A place Tu stand'



Samantha Atasani 'Irreplaceable'



Siliga Setoga 'ula lole'

accentuating the positive

In these times when there is so much negative and worrying news about, Tautai thought it would good to highlight some positive news. Congratulations to the following artists (and to any other artists who we are unaware of) who have had works taken into public collections within the last twelve months.

Shigeyuki Kihara's suite of 7 photographic images titled 'Fa'a Fafine: In a manner of a woman' which she produced in 2005 with an edition of 5 and 2 artist proofs have now all sold, most sales completed within the last twelve months. The works are held by Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tamaki, Te Papa Tongarewa Museum of New Zealand, Museum of Contemporary Art Sydney and the Metropolitan Museum of Art New

York. They are also included in important private collections - including that of Giorgio Armani.

Leanne Clayton has had three of her 'Measuring Tape Ula Lei' purchased by the Porirua City Council recently. They are currently on display at Pataka.

The Queensland Art Gallery purchased a suite of twenty drawings by Lorene Taurerewa for their collection recently. These drawings will be included in an upcoming group show titled Unnerved, Contemporary New Zealand Art to be shown at the Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane 2010 and the show will travel to The National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne Australia.

Andy Leleisi'uao has six of his paintings titled The Fa'amalea Heads purchased by the Patrons

of Auckland Art Gallery recently. The works have been gifted to the Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tamaki.

Ani O'Neill - The Patrons of Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tamaki also purchased Ani's work Eke Nui which has also been gifted to the Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tamaki.

And Te Papa Tongarewa Museum of New Zealand have also acquired a number of Edith Amituanai's photographic works.

Niki Hastings McFall's work Long White Cloud which was commissioned for the Suter Goodman exhibition 'The Maui Dynasty' at the Suter Gallery in Nelson was subsequently purchased for their collection a couple of months ago.



Shigeyuki Kihara 'Ulugali'i Samoa'



Leanne Clayton
'Measuring Tape Ula Lei'



Ani O'Neill 'Eke Nui'



Niki Hastings McFall 'Long White Cloud'

fresh horizons waitakere

The first of the three 2009 Tautai workshops specifically for secondary school students was held at the Unitec Waitakere campus 20, 21, 22 April 2009. The other two will be in Christchurch at the end of June and in Palmerston North in September.

The thirty students from secondary schools in Waitakere City were nominated by their

teachers and took part in music and moving image workshops. The music tutors King Kapisi and Teremoana Rapley were joined by moving image makers Janet Lilo and Venusi Junior Taumoepeau. They were all supported by current Unitec students Michael Iese, Patrick Figota, Shaylene Poloai and Taleni Faatea and of course the fabulous Marlaina Key who was the

co-ordinator for the project.

During the three days of full on work, the students composed their own songs, put words to music and filmed the whole process. They now have their own music video and song clip. See www.tautai.org/blog/



Lineti, Michael, Sophie & Hohepa filming



Jamming session



Jessica Hulme in the editing suite

Patron: Fatu Feu'u

Board of Trustees: Gina Cole (Chair),
Cerisse Palalagi, Colin Jeffery, Graham Fletcher,
Janet Lilo, Michelle Khan, Ron Brownson.

Tautai Office: Christina Jeffery (Manager),
Jean Clarkson (Fresh Horizons Program Manager),
Nooroa Tapuni and Marlaina Key (Administrators).

'polynisation - fue'

This work was commissioned by TVNZ for their programme New Artland which will be screening sometime in August. The work consisted of around 3,500 lei donated by the \$2 and More Shop which were strung together by Bruce MacLaren intermediate school students, Tautai members, fellow artists, fabulous friends, the TV crew and anyone else unlucky enough to wander into the studio whilst the madness ensued. Local businesses such as Tiagra construction, Gates n' Things and Discon all contributed to the project by lending muscle, donating materials and valuable time. The lei, once joined together were then hung along the back wall of two factories which measures 50 metres in length and varying from 6 to 10 metres in height. People's eyes nearly fell out of their heads as they arrived at the Sunnyvale train station, or drove along Seymour Rd, Henderson obviously wondering what on earth it was! It was a fantastic project to be part of and I would like to dedicate the work to Chris Knox, the presenter, who is currently in hospital battling a stroke. You couldn't meet a nicer man and we felt very fortunate to have met and worked with him. Our prayers, hope and love go out to him, his family and friends. Kia kaha o man of a thousand puns.

Niki Hastings McFall



Polynisation lei wall work

postcard from png

Things have been really good since returning from Auckland. Four of us pulled together great exhibition called "Opim Eye". We had over eighty people attend the opening night and Dr Michael Mel from the Goroka Uni came down for the event. He gave a beautiful speech and opened the exhibition. I also got a group of talented students to put on a lil drama before the speeches, it was great. Everyone loved the exhibition and many people now want to support us, they are excited to see what we will do next. All these ideas and energy from New Zealand I was able to take back with me and use and implement successfully.

Jeffrey Feeger
Inaugural Tautai Trust and Pacific Cooperation
Foundation Artist in Residence



Pinim skul pi (looking for school fees)

tautai agm

The Annual General Meeting of members will be held on Saturday 8 August 2009. The time and place will be advised closer to that date. This is your opportunity to hear about the achievements of the past year and to talk about plans for the future.

As the Board's annual strategic planning day will be held later in August 2009, the AGM will also be an opportunity to give your thoughts on possible future directions for Tautai.

attention artists

FREE and available for your use. Editing Suite - Mac with Final Cut Pro Studio. In Design, Photoshop, Illustrator, Power Point... and other stuff.

Also a pc with all the Microsoft software. If you need to update your CV, make a power point or put together a proposal – or edit your moving image work, you are welcome to use the facilities in the Tautai office, Artstation, 1b Ponsonby Road. Call first to make a booking (09-376 1665) or just come by to check it out.

events & exhibitions

july | august | september 2009

CNZ Arts Pasifika Awards. 2009 nominations close 17 July. www.creativenz.govt.nz

23 May – 11 October 2009. *Flower Power* includes Ema Tavola, Leilani Salesa, Shigeyuki Kihara. CRAA Centro Ricerca Arte Attuale, Verbania, Italy

12 June – 4 July. *Chrysalid*. Includes Lorene Taurerewa. Amelia Johnson Contemporary, Hong Kong

25 June – 10 July. *Don't Pacify Me*. Curator Charmaine 'Ilaiu. 18 Auckland tertiary art students at St Paul St Gallery, Auckland

1 July – 28 July. *Soul Ideologie*. Includes Lorene Taurerewa. Gallery Korea, New York

5 July – October. *Second Life*. Includes Niki Hastings-McFall at Pataka, Porirua

9 July – 1 August. *Made in Otara*. Curated by Leilani Kake. Fresh Gallery Otara

11 – 25 July. *Snapshots of Rarotonga*. Kay George & David Teata at LeSa Gallery, Jackson Street, Petone

15 July – 28 August. *Group Show* includes Lorene Taurerewa. Ann Street Gallery, New York

6 August – 29 August. *Ahoaitu - Dawn break*. Visasio Siasau. Fresh Gallery Otara

9 August – 20 September. *Spirit of the People – New Melanesian Art*, curator Giles Peterson at Corbans Estate Art Centre, Waitakere City

3 – 26 September. *South/Central*. Curated by Ema Tavola. Fresh Gallery Otara

4 – 25 September. *Chris Charteris*. Solo show at Koru Contemporary Art Gallery, Hong Kong

watch the tautai website and the pacific arts diary
for news of upcoming events and exhibitions