

Chair's Report

Extended Greetings and Salutations

This quarter has been another busy and productive time for the Tautai Trust. The highlights have been Pasifika 2003 where the Trust was represented by Board and artist members in several interactive work and display spaces. Tautai has also been involved in supporting several emerging artist initiatives - the 'Nuance' exhibition at the Edge; introduced by Jean Clarkson and opened by Fatu Feu'u, and the M.I.T. 'Pacifica' exhibition at Lopdell house introduced by Itty Nikolao and opened by Ema Tavola.

The application for funding from Creative New Zealand for next year has been sent and acknowledgement and thanks to Colin, Ron and Itty for their tireless work and commitment to producing the substantial document for this by closing date.

This month will be a busy month for Tautai in Christchurch, as various artist members and Board members will be travelling to the P.A.A. conference to participate, facilitate and discuss issues relating to the repositioning of arts in the Pacific. Tautai is also taking the opportunity to hold a Members Gathering in the South Island. This will be on Thursday 26 June to network

with the local and international artists and academics and then on the Friday and Saturday, the 'Fresh Horizons' workshops will be taking place at the Christchurch Art Centre where students from the Christchurch area will work with the Tautai Tutors to produce works suitable for exhibition in the '20/20 Sight Spacific' exhibition at C.O.C.A.

I would like to acknowledge and thank Niki Hastings-McFall for her service and contribution to the Board for the last eighteen months. Niki has been a strong member of the Board and although her professional practise will take her to Australia, Lithuania and New York this year, she is still keen to maintain her membership and networks with the Tautai Trust.

And finally thank you to the artist members and supporters who took the time to return the survey and subscriptions. Your fees and the information provided is important to the continuity of the activities and initiatives that Tautai is actively involved in and the input of our stakeholders is hugely valued.

**Fa'afetai tele
Ia Manuia
Lily Aitui Laita - Chairperson**



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Postcard from Cook Islands



Kia orana from Mauke

As the Visual Art Advisor for the Ministry of Education of the Cook Islands one of my pleasant tasks is to, in a year, visit all the outer islands, of which there are 12. I recently visited the island of Mauke to see what art programmes were being run in their two schools.

Mauke is a small island next to Atiu with a population under 400. It is the home of Paikea, the whale rider, who was, while fishing, swept over the reef.

Mauke is typical of the outer islands in that it has a declining population, large numbers since 1996 have left for Aotearoa and Australia. It is a shame because the island is beautiful and the people very friendly. You quickly notice the people left are the young and the old, that middle group have left.

There are two buildings that catch your attention immediately because they are architecturally so

striking. Both are churches, one is St Mary's; it looks like part of a medieval castle with its turret. And the other is the Ziona and its unusual gateway and entrances. The church is divided into sections because the congregation was split and so the interior decorations are also broken up, it looks very surreal.

Mauke has its own TV Stations, basically it takes whatever is on the satellite and downloads for free. It is 24 hours except the power on the island shuts down at midnight.

The short time I was there I took some of the classes for art or as the students here say 'arting'. They were so eager to do anything in art that they hung onto everything I said. The reality is the schools don't have the resources or qualified teachers for art so there is a lot of work to do.

Ian George



Fa'afetai Amituana'i

Born at St Helens hospital of Samoan parents, Fa'afetai Amituana'i grew up in central Auckland and attended local schools Westmere, Pasadena and Seddon High School. Although he experienced some difficulties with traditional written subjects, Fa'afetai discovered that he had a real aptitude for practical Art subjects - and found it easier to communicate and express his ideas through the visual medium.

For Fa'afetai, Art has always been a constant and positive influence in his life. He states that his first real awareness of Art was in experiencing the beauty of nature; by observing the light and colour changes of the sunset in Samoa. His first knowledge of contemporary Pacific Island Art was in the 1980s through the works of New Zealand based artists such as Fatu Feu'u, John Ioane and Lily Laita.

This interest and passion for Art also helped him to pursue a four year Bachelor of Design degree majoring in painting, which will be successfully completed in June of this year. Fa'afetai describes his Art as Pacific Island Art

from a New Zealand perspective, in that he utilizes motifs and icons from other cultures in his work as he believes that; "...absorbing and appreciating other art forms is part of our common humanity...".

Fa'afetai has also been involved in a number of group exhibitions, and has participated again at The Edge gallery in 2000 and 2003. This year Fa'afetai was the successful recipient for the PFL Art competition for the second time in three years, and was present in the Arts Arena at Pasifika 2003 to receive the coveted award. Fa'afetai states that; "...the elitism of exhibitions means that you can take more risks and try different things... competitions mean that you have to fit the confines for the brief - but you still produce something...I like the experience of both because I'm still making Art...".

In regard to Pacific Art in New Zealand, Fa'afetai believes that there needs to be a more concentrated recognition of Pacific Arts in mainstream society. The derogatory connotations of "...words like 'Primitive' are always associated with Pacific Art, but it needs

to receive the full respect it deserves...".

Fa'afetai acknowledges that services of the Tautai Trust have aided him in his exhibitions, helped him to make contact with other artists and also network with other related agencies. From the 'Niuanue' exhibition at the beginning of the year, Fa'afetai secured a commission through the Auckland City Council for new works for the Avondale and Mt Wellington libraries. These original art pieces will be oil on canvas and will reflect the unique diversities of the Pacific Island communities in these areas. The **viewing** of these works is to be in August/September, to coincide with the 30th birthday of the Avondale library.



emerging artist Loloma Andrews

Loloma Andrews, of Fijian and Samoan descent, started training in jewellery techniques at Manukau Institute of Technology in 1992.



Since then she has spent over ten years travelling extensively throughout the world, from South East Asia to Switzerland. From an incredibly varied range of past career interests such as nurse aiding to organic gardening and German language courses, Loloma finds herself back in South Auckland completing a Bachelor of Visual Arts, majoring in Jewellery. This inherent nomadic nature has taken her to the far reaches of the globe, constantly absorbing visual inspiration from all that surrounds her.

Earlier this year an Emerging Artist exhibition was supported at Lopdell House, Titirangi and featured Loloma's most recent works

incorporating French knitting techniques and earthy coloured nylon thread to produce small-scale morphed vessels, deceptively similar to the woven bags of Oceania. Although Loloma's earlier jewellery influences often paid direct visual reference to the art forms and motifs of her fusion of Pacific Island heritage, years spent out of the South Pacific absorbing new cultures and peoples have helped to form new cross-cultural approaches for the jeweller. The influence of her Pacific heritage is detectable on an unconscious conceptual level nowadays with visual influences coming from personal memories and experiences of travels spent.

Some Works from Pasifika Festival 2003



Art of Samoa Stamps



Stamp Issue Part 1 - Painters

The Samoan Government believes it is important that recognition be given to the artists especially for the contribution they are making in raising the profile of their country through their works.

Vanya Taule'alo – 25 sene stamp. “My art works reflect on social, political, cultural and environmental questions. In many ways I try to uphold values that are central to Samoan society”....“I address the cultural beliefs and practices I see around me. I conceptualise works based on themes relating to culture, tradition, family, gender, mythology, identity, change and the environment”.

Michel Tuffery – 70 sene stamp. This mixed media artist takes a more community-based approach. His sculptures and performance art have included sound, smells and light, involving the communities in which he works. “I use traditional design motifs, stories, dances and songs in a contemporary way.”

Momoe von Reiche – 90 sene stamp. Based in Apia, Momoe is involved in both painting and writing. Regarding her work for this stamp she states: “There is an intangible depth to Samoa that can only be expressed abstractly, as I have shown in ‘Landscape’”.

Fatu Feu'u – \$1.00 stamp. Fatu resides in Auckland and combines traditional images to convey his ideas about authority, the symbols of power, mythology and his cultural heritage “The future of Pacific art is basically in the hands of the community and the young art makers. They have got to believe in what they do so that we can survive. Part of our survival is doing our art”.

Lily Laita – \$4.00 stamp. Lily has mapped aspects of her life in her paintings and sculpture, exploring concepts such as the relevance of knowledge. “For me painting becomes a direct link with my ancestors. It's like being able to see them. The visual is the painting, the physical is actually a feeling”.

References were obtained from Artok (Pacific Arts Online) and ‘Speaking in Colour’ – Sean Mallon and Pandora Fulimalo Pereira, or directly from the artists.

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Daniella Hulme

Daniella was involved in a fourteen day Painting Symposium at the America's Cup Village at the Viaduct Harbour from the 10th of Feb -24th of Feb.

Participating were ten artists including Daniella, who were selected by American company ‘Eli Lilly’ (3rd sponsor for Team NZ). The symposium named “Moments at the America's cup” and images of the symposium can be found at www.moments.artfind.co.nz



Pasifika Festival 2003



Thank you Lena Samu and Jessica Ofa for assisting Tautai at Pasifika and making visitors to Tautai welcome and informed.



Jean Clarkson and Jessica Ofa

Congratulations Sylvia!

Sylvia Masters - Recipient of the Cook Island Residency Programme.

Sylvia is currently working on painting the hibiscus and tipani (frangipani). "To Cook Islanders flowers represent all that is beautiful and bountiful in their natural environment. Flowers worn on the hair of women, or behind the ear. They are an evocative emblem of femininity and the flourishing Pacific".

"I am honoured to be selected as the recipient of the Cook Islands residency for 2003. I have always considered myself as a Cook Island artist and it is important to me to contribute to their community. Using my experiences as a practising artist and as a High School art teacher. It will also be important for me to finally 'go back' to the home of my father".



Snippets

FRESH HORIZONS

With funding for Creative New Zealand, the Tautai Trust will be facilitating workshops for Pacific art students to be held in the Arts Centre in Christchurch, Friday 27-28 June 2003.

The artists invited to tutor the workshops will also be representing Tautai at the VII International Symposium of PAA - 'Repositioning Pacific Arts Conference', and include local artists such as Lonnie Hutchinson as well as Auckland based artists Jim Vivieaere, Niki Hastings-McFall, Lily Laita and John Ioane.

This is a unique opportunity for the students as not only will they have access to established artists but will also be producing work during this two day intensive what will be included in the upcoming C.O.C.A exhibition - '20/20 Sight Specific'.

Tautai has organised an integrated programme and is assisting to cover the costs of the accommodation, meals, travel and materials.

PACIFIC ARTS SYMPOSIUM

The 7th International Symposium of the Pacific Arts Association will be held in Christchurch from 23-26 June 2003. Several Tautai members are participating and this is an opportunity to interact and share knowledge and interests concerning issues of Pacific Arts. Contact conference administrators on Ph: 03 379 0390 for further information.

Past and Upcoming Events & Exhibitions

Iosefa Leo
- combined show

'Vai Manino'
July Henderson Gallery, Lorne St, Auckland **Opens: Sunday, 27 July 3-5pm Closes: 15 August**

Andy Leleisi'uao

'The Umu Collection of Book Titles'
Whitespace Gallery, Newmarket Auckland **Opens: Saturday, June 28th 1-3pm Closes: 18 July**

Lonnie Hutchinson & Veronica Vaevae

'The Loni and Roni Show'
Physics Room, Tuam St, Christchurch **3 June - 5 July**

Tautai Members

'20/20 Sight Specific'
Centre of Contemporary Art Gallery Christchurch **Opens: Tuesday 10 June @ 5.30pm Closes 12 July**

Leafa Janice Wilson
- combined show

'Funny' Platform01 Gallery, Hamilton Platform01@ihug.co.nz **Opens: Wednesday, 11 June @ 5.30pm Closes: 29 June**

Shigeyuki Kihara and John Ioane

'Shi.Ane' Whitespace Gallery 1 Morgan St, Newmarket **17 May - 6 June**

Fatu Feu'u

'Ole Tautai Samoa' Pataka Gallery, Porirua **15 May - 10 August**

Niki Hastings-McFall

'Rise up Singing'
FHE Gallery Kitchener St, Auckland **13 May - 12 June**

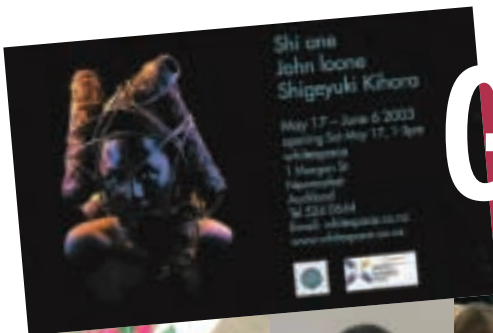
Ruta-Tugia Laban

'Aloha-Alofa'
Brisbane Queensland, Australia **21-27 March 03**

Metuanooroa Tapuni
- combined show

'Group Show' Alleluya Gallery St Kentigan's Arcade, Auckland **March 03**

Gallery



Shigeyuki Kihara and John Ioane
'Shi.Ane' Whitespace Gallery



Fatu Feu'u - Corban Estate Summer Sculpture School 2003

MEMBERS GATHERING

The next Members Gathering will be held in **Christchurch at the Centra Hotel, cnr Cashel & High Streets, Christchurch in Ballroom one on Thursday, 26 June 03 from 5-7pm.** All members welcome and an invitation is also extended to those attending the VII International Symposium of the Pacific Arts Association.

A New Baby Boy!

A warm welcome to Master Marek Rakete-Vaevae and extended warm wishes to the proud parents Veronica Vaevae and Leroy Rakete on the birth of your son, born 11 March 2003.

Design and layout of the Tautai Newsletter



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