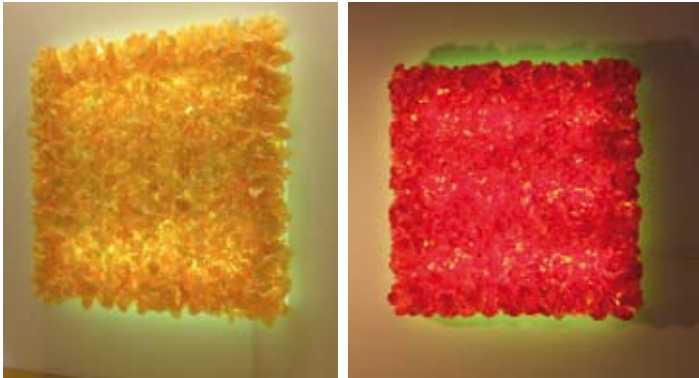




THIS ISSUE: Niki Hastings-McFall, Passionate About Pacific Arts, Postcard from Wellington, Tautai Appointments, Tautai Childrens' T-Shirts, Pacific Futures Conference

Niki Hastings-McFall

Joy! Joy!! Joy!!!



This latest Niki Hastings-McFall exhibition at Auckland's fHe Gallery in Kitchener Street opened on a particularly cold mid winter evening. The chill of the night air was immediately warmed by the signage declaring joy! joy!! joy!!! which is underscored by a row of bright yellow daffodils. A capacity crowd made up from the community of artists, Tautai members and supporters, friends and family were there to support Niki in this special show that she has been working on over the last year.

Earlier this year Niki travelled to England and Paris to take part in exhibitions and whilst there visited many museums and art galleries. She said that when she returned to Aotearoa she had the incandescent colour and sensuality of the Impressionists and Neo-Impressionists freshly imprinted on her mind and she has used some of the emotions recalled in those memories and transferred them into a new series of lei-flower lightboxes. Titled "Beneath My Eyelids, Under the Sun", they are a joyous and optimistic explosion of coloured petals and light. Niki describes the work as having been resolved "whilst recovering from my first operation after a cancer diagnosis in July. Lying in bed with the sun and my dog for company I would close my eyes and see the colours of my life-force running under my eyelids. I wanted to represent this force and vitality by drawing with light and colour".

There are three lightboxes, each glorious in their lusciousness - yellow on yellow, red on yellow, red on red. Superficially similar and although obviously from the same background, they are also individual and each exudes its own 'come hither' message. They act as magnets, drawing people to them, holding out their hands as if to be warmed by the glow. Niki has continued to make use of the lei - here deconstructing the artificial and clichéd lei, mass produced for the tourist market in the Pacific, made from fake flowers which we in New Zealand see hanging optimistically outside \$2 shops.

Damian Skinner suggests that 'synthetic flowers from deconstructed lei are critical to the various games that Hastings-McFall plays here. This is partly about authenticity. As

artificial as the tourist clichés serviced by mass-produced lei made from fake flowers, you might say. And it is partly about the flower as a sign in what might be called 'floral history'. Missionaries disapproved of young women wearing flowers in their hair, fearing their seductive power, while (for the very same reason) the flower has remained an enduring sign of the dusky maiden in popular culture and tourist representations.'

There is also an installation of twenty five lamps. All 'found objects' they differ in height and material, all with shades also of a variety of shapes and sizes, large and small and all be-decked in their colourful and floral Sunday best. Titled 'the Forest (Vao)', a title drawn from Samoan oratory, they light up the gallery floor and suffuse the room with joy. Niki explains that when Samoans gather from different parts of the islands, or in the case of modern Samoans like herself, from different countries and continents, the talking chief's welcoming speech will open: "Ua fuifui fa'ataisi ae vao 'ese'ese"... "We have gathered together from different parts of the forest", a phrase that evokes a sense of a common humanity, whether Polynesian or Palagi, and from whichever part of the global forest one might have come.

This lamp forest radiates warmth to all who gather and exclaim in delight.

Christina Jeffery (with thanks to Giles Peterson and Damian Skinner)



Congratulations

Congratulations to Nanette Lela'ulu who will begin her three month residency in the Cook Islands shortly. Nanette is the sixth recipient of this Creative New Zealand award which is supported by the Cook Islands Ministry of Cultural Development. Nanette says that she is very excited about the residency and hopes to use the time there to explore new realms in her work while also being able to give something back to the community that she will be living in for three months.

And also congratulations to Shigeyuki Kihara who is one of two artists to have been awarded a residency at the Physics Room in Christchurch for 2007.

Yuki will take up her four week residency during May 2007 and is planning to use the time there to research the photographic collection at the Macmillan Brown Research Library at the University of Canterbury and work towards the development of a new photographic series in response to early anthropological photographs of Samoan culture.



Chair's Report

Ni sa bula vinaka

Welcome to the Spring edition of the Tautai newsletter, the third issue for this year. The Board is very pleased in this newsletter to introduce two new additions to the Tautai Trust management team.

First, Cathryn Laban is welcomed to Tautai as the Trust Manager. Cathryn commenced work on 18 September 2006. Her appointment as a full time salaried manager marks another step in the growth and evolution of the trust. The ability to now employ a manager on this basis has been made possible through the increased funding which Tautai has received from Creative New Zealand and the ASB Community Trust.

I also take this opportunity to formally welcome Caroline Taupeaefe to the management team. Many of you will already have had contact with Caroline who began working part time for Tautai during August in the Arts Administrator role.

Christina Jeffery, who will be well known to you as a long time supporter of Tautai and as Communications Manager, has been filling the role of acting manager. The Board thanks Christina very much for the extra work she has put in during the last few months while we worked through the recruitment process prior to Cathryn commencing as Trust Manager.

I also have much pleasure in being able to advise that our core funding for 2007 has been confirmed by Creative New Zealand. The trustees are very appreciative of the

confidence the Arts Board has shown in the activities of Tautai Trust by again increasing the CNZ annual grant. Confirmation of this funding for next year allows us to now proceed with implementation of the program and to embark on some new initiatives.

The regular features continue, with the weekly Pacific Arts Diary email which you will be receiving on a Thursday now rather than Fridays. Visits by artists to the art departments of the tertiary institutions continue. John Ioane and Loloma Andrews represented Tautai Trust at recent visits with Pacific art students. The radio spot on 531PI has been moved to the new time of 11.40am on Tuesday mornings. Shigeyuki Kihara organises the guest correspondents for this spot which provides a wide variety of art related news and views.

The next Fresh Horizons workshop will take place in Hamilton on 3 and 4 November 2006. This will be the sixth of these arts intensive workshops which Tautai organises and it is anticipated that about twenty five secondary school students will attend the workshop at WINTEC.

We are also looking forward to having a presence at the Grey Lynn Festival in November. Work is proceeding smoothly for the 'Le Folauga' exhibition scheduled to open at the Auckland Museum in March 2007. 'Le Folauga' is a collaboration between the Auckland Museum and Tautai and will be a major exhibition of contemporary Pacific art. It is being curated by Fuli Pereira, Curator - Pacific from Auckland Museum and Ron Brownson, a Tautai trustee and senior curator at Auckland Art Gallery.

Thank you from me and the other Tautai Trust Board members and management for your continuing support of Tautai Trust

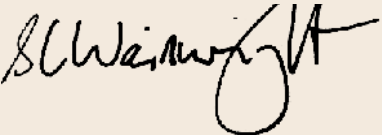
Ni sa moce mada – Gina Cole (Chair)

Passionate about Pacific Arts

Marilyn Kohlhasse made a huge contribution to New Zealand arts and artists over the six years she was Chair of Creative New Zealand's Pacific Arts Committee and a member of its Arts Board. Stephen Wainwright, Chief Executive of Creative New Zealand, says that Marilyn's deep knowledge of Pacific arts and artists, along with her commitment, was greatly valued. "Marilyn is passionate about the Pacific arts, their potential to provide rewarding careers for Pacific artists and their contribution to life in New Zealand," he says.

In the June issue of the Pacific Arts Committee's Arts Pasifika newsletter, Marilyn wrote: "Back in 2000, I knew most of the artists in our Pacific communities. Six years on, that's no longer the case. These days, I'm constantly hearing about new Pacific artists and projects making an impact both in New Zealand and on the international scene. Along with this growth, New Zealanders are increasingly appreciative of our vibrant Pacific arts."

The new Chair of the Pacific Arts Committee is Pele Walker, who has a wide knowledge of professional and community arts and is the founding chair of the Wellington branch of PASIFIKA Inc.



Stephen Wainwright
Chief Executive, Creative New Zealand



Marilyn with Tautai Patron Fatu Feu'u celebrating Tautai's 10th Anniversary in 2005

We know that all the members and supporters of Tautai Trust will join with the Board of Trustees in sincerely thanking Marilyn Kohlhasse for her tremendous work in the support of Pacific artists.

This support was very freely given by her both personally and through Creative New Zealand. You will all be aware of the considerable amount of her personal time which Marilyn has given to be present at art opening and other events. Her presence was always significant and given with great generosity of spirit and enthusiasm. You will all be aware also of the many other and individual ways in which Marilyn has worked to support artists and to develop a larger awareness of the important role of Pacific arts.

Tautai Trust itself has been one of the beneficiaries of Marilyn's support and the trustees are very grateful for that. Her time on the Pacific Arts Committee has coincided with the period that Tautai has received the annual funding from Creative New Zealand which has been the most significant factor in the evolution of the trust as an organisation with a solid infrastructure.

Marilyn, we all thank you for your very considerable contribution to the development of Pacific art and artists during your time as Chair of the Pacific Arts Committee. We hope that you will maintain your interest in what we are doing and look forward to continuing to see you on the art circuit.

Tautai wishes you the very best for your future activities.

Postcard from Wellington

'The Gap'. Hey art lovers of Aotearoa in particular you Pacifican pursuers of profundity, hope this postcard from Welly finds you all bright eyed and bushy tailed. Much has transpired for us P.I's since last time I wrote.

On the artistic scene we've had a virtual orgy down here, from Lorene Taurerewa's large drawings, drawing on her Chinese side at Pataka Gallery in Porirua, to Miria George's play, "And What Remains", directed by Hone Kouka at BATS Theatre, not forgetting the brothers Tuffery – Michel and Sheyne - offering a Mix of Pacific at Williams gallery in Petone and the inspiring 2x2 contemporary projects at City Gallery, latterly featuring Lonnie Hutchinson and Sriwhana Spong – you may remember 2x2 featured Edith Amituanai and Kelcy Taratoa earlier this year. Lonnie is also about to open another show at Mary Newton Gallery.

With all this artistic variety going on, a few mates and I thought we'd do the action bit and get out and have a look 'cos at the end of the day, it is about the doing. It was interesting, not so much for the artworks – which for me were truly as eclectic as you could get – but around the discussions that occurred. I was accompanied by a Papalagi female and a Niuean born male, both whom had strong views about art.

The female, whom we'll call X, was a layperson as far as Art went whilst the male whom we'll call Y was a self taught artist. X and Y had interesting viewpoints about Lonnie's work at the City Gallery, X felt that art should be aesthetically pleasing and that it should be something that she felt she couldn't do herself, whilst Y could see where Lonnie was coming from artistically but could not see the Pacific-ness of it.

Which got me to thinking – yes it does happen once in a while – that we are all products of individual experiences and mass indoctrinations. Much of what we think we like and what we expect, is based upon what we as individuals have experienced or have gone to class to study – if we study it do we immediately become an expert

with a discerning opinion? Plus, under what worldview are we studying?

Which brings me around to cultural divides, what do we, as Pacific peoples, believe is our art? What about our appreciation of art, is it based on Papalagi worldviews or a subliminal milieu of all cultures that make up where we are presently ensconced or is it more functional as per Pacific reality i.e. Can you eat it?

The gap between the cultures has been blaringly obvious lately, the media trial of Phillip Field, being one, so good to see Galumalemana Hunkin jumping into the fray – Dom Post 7th Sept. From a Pacific point of view this gap between people is such a big issue, for this Samoan, how we look after that gap or how we decorate that gap has been a founding tenet, we even have a name for it, "Teu le Va" with reciprocity being just a portion of that. Good to see other artists challenging societal norms as well.

Miria George's play has been the subject of debate in terms of cultural understanding, I point you to this website, www.theatreview.org.nz the reviews and forum is a good place to start.

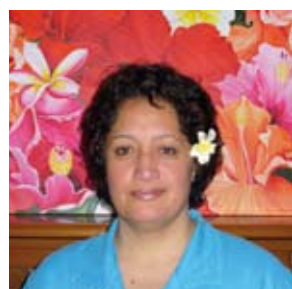
Lorene Taurerewa's work looks at "exploring the paths back to an original source... using drawing to lessen the "gap" the spatial barriers between viewer and maker."

I say keep it up, we need more artists putting a Pacific view up for discussion, we need more PI people of action, regardless of what one assumes of the work, the fact that they are doing it and doing it progressively in droves may help others to understand a bit more about the complexities of Pacific peoples cultures to the point of appreciation. Then let the debates begin but without ignorant extrapolations and hopefully we can all find a "together" way forward to bridging the "Gap".

Soifua maloloina, Ole Maiava from Porirua

Welcome... Tautai appointments

As announced recently, **Cathryn Laban** has been appointed to the position of Trust Manager of Tautai and we warmly welcome her to the organisation.



Cathryn has a background in administration, event management and marketing acquired from a career which has been mainly based in the radio, music, and entertainment industries. She has had close working relationships with Ardijah and the Yandall Sisters and has worked in the radio industry. Cathryn has also been the administrator of the Anau Ako Pasifika Trust a Pacific Early Childhood Education home visiting programme. She says "One of the most

rewarding things I've found when working with our Pacific people is seeing how much talent is out there and being able to encourage and support them in some small way to help them achieve their goals". She comes from a family who are very much involved in the Pacific community and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience of that community gained from her previous work in both the paid and voluntary sectors.



We also warmly welcome **Caroline Taupeaafa** to the role of Arts Administrator for Tautai. Many of you will now have had contact with Caroline who is based in the Tautai office at Artstation on Ponsonby Road. Caroline has acquired a number of diplomas in office administration and web and computer oriented subjects since graduating from Auckland Girls Grammar in 2004. Although the contemporary arts area is new to Caroline, she has an ongoing commitment to the Langafonua Youth Arts Programme.

Christina Jeffery continues in the part-time role she has filled for three years now. As Communications Manager she gathers and disseminates information, updates the website, puts the newsletter together, and works on some special projects for Tautai.

Cathryn and Caroline will both be working from the Tautai office and look forward to visits and calls from members and supporters. Caroline is in the office Monday to Thursday from 9am until 3pm. If you are going to visit outside of those hours it would be best to call first to ensure someone is there.

Children's T-shirts now available...

We now have a range of T-shirts, as modelled by the gorgeous Shiloh, in sizes 2, 4, 6, 8, 10.

The following logo colours are available on a navy shirt: pink, white, yellow, cream.

Cost \$20

Send your cheque and note of your requirements to: Tautai Trust, PO Box 68 339, Newton, 1145, Auckland. Or call into the office at Artstation, 1B Ponsonby Road, between 9am and 3pm, Monday to Thursday.





WEBSITE: WWW.TAUTAI.ORG

Pacific Futures Conference

As an artist and educator I recently had the opportunity to attend the Pacific Futures conference held at the Fale Pasifika at Auckland University. The conference title of 'Future-Proofing the Pacific' and the latest buzz words and forecast strategies of notable experts from the religious, political and business worlds sounded very intriguing and full of promise. The main objective of the symposium was to bridge the gap between the past and the future to assist in understanding how Pacific peoples can deal with the global economy of the 21st century.

The Hon. Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi saw the role of government as a nurturer of culture and talked about the importance of secure and stable governance to ensure a prosperous and preserved culture. Joris de Bres spoke on the role of diversity in religion and the 'Bridging and Bonding' programmes adapted from the Cronulla case study for Waitakere City Council.

Rev Mua Strickson Pua celebrated the 'Art of being Pasifikan in Aotearoa', but also challenged the academic speakers to address the concerns and expectations of Pasifika communities to have the best. The Hon. Tuilaepa acknowledged the role/realm of women in Tourism and Crafts as crucial to the success of a preserved culture, Pauline Kingi motivated the participants to 'Challenge the paradigm to move people forward, don't see the barriers – see the opportunities'. Pale Sauni discussed the importance of 'well being of Tagata Pasifika if we are to make it to the future' and Fuimaono Les McCarthy summarised the Literacy and Leadership initiatives for 'Future proofing' the next generation.

Dr Manuka Henare referred to Pacific Peoples expertise in maintaining a Global and Indigenous identity. The balance between Globalisation and Indigenous traditions

is not a binary issue as he states 'Dualism is not an issue for Pacific Peoples – the more universal we become, the more tribal we act'. Dr Henare also promoted the traditional systems as the learning constructs to build the future. Elder Condie spoke about 'protective filters' to screen the adverse effects of Globalisation in 'future proofing' the family and church. The Hon. Keitapu Maamaatuaiahū Tapu however used a cautionary tale of the plastic bag that ate the turtle to explain the effects of Globalisation in French Polynesia. The turtle – a symbol of life throughout the Pacific can eat the plastic bag, but it cannot digest and will eventually die.

Although the conference was both informative and inspiring, there was one notable voice missing – that of the youth and their concerns about the future. The value of the paradigms and discourses critiqued by the Academic and Political leaders functioned as an important but static tool to assist research and policy. However the distance and diversity of the participants youth knowledge became apparent when one was asked about the effects of 'bebo'. The applications of theorem may not be as simplistic as proposed in the symposium. Generation Y may not even be interested in conforming to the institutional and inflexible constructs of the past, and in real time are continuously creating their own identities, social values and futures on line from their Blackberry or websites like 'bebo', 'msn.com' or 'myspace'.

The youth today have a greater choice than those of the past, but what happens next is everyone's responsibility; to be involved in the busy ness of education, literacy and leadership are the investments required to 'future proofing' the Pacific in the 21st century, lest we become the 'plastic bag' to the future's 'turtle'.

Lily Aitui Laita



Filipe Tohi recently spent time in Fiji where he completed this commissioned work for USP. Made in aluminum, it is titled *Fetu'ukalokalo*.

Filipe also visited Lau and is pictured here with Sione Lupe, master craftsman in Oneata.

Photographs by Hilary Scothorn.



Exhibitions & Events October/November/December

- Until 5 Oct: David Te Ata, The Art Studio, Rarotonga
- Until 24 Oct: *Parallel Seductions*, Lonnie Hutchinson, City Gallery, Wellington
- Until 7 Oct: *Paradise Lust*, Lonnie Hutchinson, Mary Newton Gallery, Wellington,
- Until 7 Oct: Ellie Fa'amauri, Artful Gallery, Morgan Street, Auckland,
- 3-31 Oct: *Faalpika*, Fatu Feu'u, Catchment Gallery, Nelson
- 4 Oct-4 Nov: Lonnie Hutchinson, South Project, Museo de Arte Contemporane, Santiago, Chile.
- 12 Oct-5 Nov: *Couleurs du Pacifique*, Isabelle Staron-Tutugoro, Saint Symphorien sur Coise, France
- 17 Oct-3 Nov: *Journeys*, Sylvia Marsters & Daniella Hulme, Reef, Symonds Street, Auckland.
- 20 Oct-22 Dec: *'Vavau; Tales of Ancient Samoa'*, Shigeyuki Kihara, Gus Fisher Gallery, Auckland.
- 25 Oct-18 Nov: *Sousou*, Sofia Tekela-Smith, John Leech Gallery, Auckland
- 25 Oct-18 Nov: *Recent paintings*, John Pule, Gow Langsford Gallery, Auckland
- 6 Nov-March 07: John Pule & Sima Urale, 5th Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art, Queensland Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane
- 21 Nov-25 Dec: Chris Charteris, Janne Land, Wellington.
- 28 Nov-Jan: Chris Charteris, FHE Galleries, Auckland.
- 6 Dec-17 Jan: *Pacifica*, Sylvia Marsters, Daniella Hulme, Morgan Street, Newmarket.
- Until 2008: *Pasifika Styles*, Cambridge University Museum, UK. includes work by: Lonnie Hutchinson, Niki Hastings-McFall, Shigeyuki Kihara, Chris Charteris, Greg Semu, Filipe Tohi, John Ioane, Michel Tuffery, Sheyne Tuffery, Ani O'Neill, Rosanna Raymond.
- 3-12 November: *Sculpture on Shore*, Fort Takapuna, Vauxhall Rd, Devonport. Artists taking part include Chris Charteris, Fatu Feu'u & Isabelle Staron-Tutugoro, John Ioane, Iosefa Leo, Tui Hobson, Chris Mules, Richard Shortland-Cooper. Supporting NZ Women's Refuges.

Design and layout of the Tautai Newsletter
 Desktop Graphics Ltd
 Contact: Tagi Cole



43 Selbourne Street, Grey Lynn, Auckland • Ph: 09-376 3889 • Fax: 09-376 3969
 Mob: 027-4826 302 • desktopgraphics@xtra.co.nz

Tautai receives major public funding from Creative NZ and also receives significant funding from ASB Community Trust.



ARTS COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND TOI AOTEAROA



ASB Community Trust
 Te Kaitiaki Putea o Tamaki o Tai Tokerau