

2017 Pasifika Internships announced

The recipients of 2017's Pasifika internships are textile designer Sonya Elspeth Withers, captions producer Sarah Maiava, and artist Sara Riordan.

The Pasifika internship programme is funded by Creative New Zealand, delivered by Tautai Contemporary Pacific Arts Trust, and provides art practitioners with professional development opportunities to develop as arts managers and administrators. The 20-week internships involve placing recipients with organisations able to enhance the interns' skills, knowledge and experience, and build audiences beyond their communities. Tautai works with the interns to identify a suitable host organisation and prepare for the placement.

During the placement, support is provided by respected photographic artist and community worker, Edith Amituanai, who also teaches at both Elam School of Fine Arts and Whitecliffe College of Art and Design. "I am very excited to work with both the institutions and the interns," Edith says. "These internships are a wonderful opportunity for those who wish to pursue a career in arts administration, and a proactive way of getting more Pacific people working in that area."

The internships are open to New Zealand residents of Pacific heritage with a tertiary qualification and/or at least three years' continuous experience working as an artist, practitioner or administrator. The first of these CNZ Pasifika internships were offered in 2013, with three placements being made available each year. The recipients of the 2016 internships were designer Catherine Hunt, placed at Auckland's split/fountain design studio and RM Gallery; curator and producer Bonni Tamati, at Te Uru Waitakere Contemporary Gallery; and artist Jasmine Te Hira, placed at Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tamaki and Wellington's Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision Archive.

The internships program has proven to be successful, with many of the interns finding employment within the arts sector. Recent examples include Amiria Puia-Taylor (Youth Outreach Programmer at Auckland War Memorial Museum), curator Jodi Meadows (awarded a Marilyn Mayo internship at Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tamaki and a role at Te Uru Waitakere Contemporary Gallery); and writer Faith Wilson (awarded the prestigious Blumhardt Internship at The Dowse Lower Hutt). Jodi Meadows describes her internship as "an invaluable stepping stone" into the art and museum sector; Amiria Puia-Taylor says it helped her better understand how different sized organisations managed projects, supported artists and connected with people; and Faith Wilson says she was able to learn more about arts management from some of the best in that field.

For media assistance, contact: Victor van Wetering

T: 09 849 6565

E: victorvw@xtra.co.nz

W: www.tautai.org

Christina Jeffery, Manager, Tautai Contemporary Pacific Arts Trust

T: 021 373 402

E: manager@tautai.org

W: www.tautai.org

Sonya Elspeth Withers is an Auckland-based textiles designer who draws on Samoan cultural traditions to produce commercial textiles that align with community values. “I want to develop my knowledge about how Pasifika methodologies can contribute to the livelihood of the Pasifika community through using indigenous creative innovation.”

Sonya’s tertiary study culminated with a Masters in Design from Massey University’s School of Design. In 2013 she travelled to Samoa to do further research on Siapo and in 2016 to New York to develop international contacts. Sonya is committed to working collaboratively and has developed business skills as a store manager for a leading New Zealand menswear retailer. In 2016, she presented a range of Siapo prints at New Zealand Fashion Week.

Sarah Maiava is a captions producer in Auckland, has a BA with honours in English Literature from Victoria University of Wellington and is studying Samoan and Te Reo. “I want to forge a path in the arts management field. This internship will enable me to gain valuable skills to advance and advocate the arts for all.”

Sarah has previously worked as a visitor host at Palmerston North’s Te Manawa Museum of Art Science and History, and for disability services at Victoria University of Wellington.

Wellington-based artist Sara Riordan brings a mix of tertiary study and work experience to her internship; with ambitions to strengthen a career in the creative arts industry. “This internship will further cultivate my knowledge about art management and provide me with valuable literary material for the use of my own art practise. Ultimately, I intend to use the experience and skill-set gained by this internship to positively impact the promotion and sustainability of the Pasifika arts community.”

Sara is a cartoonist with a passion for graphic satire and contemporary Polynesian art. She currently works as a Visitor Services Tour Host at Te Papa Tongarewa with a Bachelor of Fine Art (Honours) from Massey University's College of Creative Arts.

Edith Amituanai has been described as a “chronicler of her cultural milieu.”

Edith Amituanai’s photographic work has developed from unusual attentiveness to her immediate social world. In 2005 Edith graduated from Unitec with a Bachelor of Design in Photography. In 2007 she was inaugural recipient of the Marti Friedlander Photographic Award and in 2008 a finalist in the Walters Prize.

For media assistance, contact: Victor van Wetering

T: 09 849 6565

E: victorvw@xtra.co.nz

W: www.tautai.org

Christina Jeffery, Manager, Tautai Contemporary Pacific Arts Trust

T: 021 373 402

E: manager@tautai.org

W: www.tautai.org

Tautai's management of the internships reflects its successful track record of developing and delivering professional development programmes in the arts and tertiary sectors.

Tautai manger Christina Jeffery is delighted with how previous interns have benefitted from the experience. "These internships can bridge the gap between artists working solely within their communities, and having the necessary skills to break into the art establishment. They provide the opportunity for talented people from our community to spend time in institutions and to learn at first-hand about those established organisations who generously host the interns. Tautai is a lead organisation facilitating the development of contemporary pacific art and artists here and internationally. Tautai has a strong knowledge of, and networks within, New Zealand arts and cultural institutions. We're committed to raising the profile of Pacific art and artists and fulfilling their aspirations to manage arts projects. These internships are an important part of achieving these objectives."

The name Tautai draws on the Samoan word for navigator, reflecting a desire to work alongside artists and offer guidance in enhancing their art practice. Tautai not only helps Pacific artists to grow and succeed in their chosen contemporary art form, but also in their lives and as individuals making positive contributions to their wider communities. Since the 1980s Tautai Contemporary Pacific Arts Trust has supported the growing number of contemporary pacific artists living in Aotearoa. Implementing Tautai's goals has evolved to take account of the changing art world and widening art practices. Tautai supports the production of new and innovative work by practising artists, runs programmes for secondary and tertiary students of Pacific heritage, manages internships, and maintains a comprehensive website www.tautai.org

Tautai receives ongoing major public funding from Creative New Zealand, significant funding from the Foundation North, and generous support from its Fetu Ta'i programme.

Current and recent Tautai projects include:

- Artist Residency 2017, photographer, musician, screenwriter, artist Juliana Brown Eyes – Kahomovailahi.
- *Our Inherited Body*, and *Thinking Globally, Acting Locally*, Papakura Art Gallery (until 4 February 2017).
- *TAUTAI | CELEBRATE*, Urbanesia Festival. (18-20 November)
- *Art4Food*, St Matthew-in-the-City. (8-12 October)
- *Influx*, ST PAUL St Gallery, AUT. (23 September-28 October)
- *OFFSTAGE 7*, Artspace. (3-15 September)
- *Tautai | Navigate: Thirty years of navigating contemporary Pacific art*, Studio One Toi Tu.
- *Myths and Legends in my veins*, Papakura Art Gallery.
- Lonnie Hutchinson *Black Bird*, Gus Fisher Gallery and Dowse Art Museum.
- *Fresh Horizons* workshops, Wellington, Dunedin, Tauranga and Auckland.
- *Pacific Materiality*, Studio One Toi Tū.
- Niki Hastings-McFall's *Flock*, Whitespace, and *Fale Ula*, Auckland Arts Festival.

For media assistance, contact: Victor van Wetering

T: 09 849 6565

E: victorvw@xtra.co.nz

W: www.tautai.org

Christina Jeffery, Manager, Tautai Contemporary Pacific Arts Trust

T: 021 373 402

E: manager@tautai.org

W: www.tautai.org