

Tautua

Papakura Art Gallery 21 October – 25 November 2017



Pascal Atiga-Bridger, *Mixed, 2017*,
Acrylic & polyurethane on plywood

Pascal Atiga-Bridger's artworks, which use elements of the design of the Union Jack to illustrate some of the effects of British colonisation, will be on show at Papakura Art Gallery from October 21.

"My works replace the original colours on the Union Jack with those of the Maori flag, and those of the countries of Samoa, Niue, Tahiti and Papua New Guinea. The results symbolise the connection some of these islands have with the United Kingdom through colonisation."

The Tautai project is Atiga-Bridger's first solo exhibition, with the artist drawing upon his extended family's diverse cultures – with a whakapapa that includes Maori, Samoan, European and Niuean lineage. "My works in *Tautua* showcase my family's ties to my Turangawaewae by being tangata whenua."

Atiga-Bridger has been researching how indigenous flags, and traditional and contemporary art practices in Pacific nations may have been shaped by colonial influences. "This is helping me develop a deeper understanding of how to portray my family's identity within my current works."

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American painter and printmaker, Jasper Johns is an influence on Atiga-Bridger – given Johns' approach and choice of materials. Johns has painted more than forty works based on the United States flag, as well as paint and newspaper collage works.

“There may be some similarities in how my art works can connect with *my* audience, the Papakura community. Because my art will be shown in a public gallery my art is for *them*.” This philosophy prompted Atiga-Bridger to invite students at Redhill Primary School, which he attended as a child, to design and make their own flags at workshops at Papakura Gallery on 11 & 12 September. These works will draw upon the students' identity and culture and be displayed in the gallery's front window during the **Tautua** exhibition. The students, their teachers and parents will also be invited to a special celebration at the gallery on Saturday 28 October.



Pascal Atiga-Bridger, *Extended*, 2017, Acrylic & polyurethane on plywood

Atiga-Bridger credits a number of mentors with helping him gain the skills needed to mount **Tautua** – including Janet Lilo, Reina Sutton and Leilani Kake, and Avondale's The Creative Souls Project and South Auckland's ManaRewa collectives. “These creatives have been vital in my gaining the experience, time management and installation skills needed.”

Atiga-Bridger is a multidisciplinary visual artist in his third year of study for a Bachelor of Creative Arts [visual] at Manukau Institute of Technology's Faculty of Creative Arts. Atiga-Bridger enjoys collaborating with fellow students and artists, and community-focused projects. He is employed by Tautai in a Tertiary Liaison role to support, and facilitate connections between, arts students across institutions – including through gallery visits, critique sessions, and tertiary exchanges.

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In October, as well as *Tautua* opening at the Papakura Art Gallery, Tautai is featuring artworks in lightboxes in Beresford Lane 7-15 October in a project funded by Auckland Council. Artists with work on display are: Edith Amituanai, Asinate Moa, Salome Tanuvasa, Matavai Taulangau, Chris Charteris, Shane Tuihalangie, Siliga David Setoga and Raymond Sagapolutele.

TAUTAI has spent more than 30 years dedicated to the development and support of Pacific arts and artists. 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 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.

Recent Tautai projects include:

- *OFFSTAGE 8* Artspace
- *Sauniga* ICL Building
- Artist Residency Programme: photographer, musician, artist Juliana Brown Eyes - Kahomovailahi
- *Our Inherited Body & Thinking Locally, Acting Globally* Papakura Art Gallery
- TAUTAI | CELEBRATE Galatos, Ponsonby Central & Ponsonby Community Centre
- *Art4Food* St Matthews
- *Influx* ST PAUL St Gallery, AUT
- *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
- Building potential arts managers through Creative New Zealand-funded Pasifika art internships, and partnering with Artspace Gallery's Education Internship programme

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