



**JASMINE TOGO-BRISBY
DUNEDIN SCHOOL OF ART RESIDENCY 2019
ANNOUNCEMENT**

TAUTAI
GUIDING PACIFIC ARTS



DUNEDIN SCHOOL OF ART RESIDENCY

Tautai, in partnership with the Otago Polytechnic, Dunedin School of Art, are proud to announce that Jasmine Togo-Brisby is the successful artist for the 2019 Dunedin School of Art - Artist in Residence.

This triennial artist residency is specifically for visual artists of Pacific heritage and is about celebrating the depth of talent within the Pacific arts community. The resident artist is encouraged to create work that is challenging and diverse. Claudia Jowitt was the last artist to receive this particular residency.

Jasmine Togo-Brisby is a multi-disciplinary artist, currently studying a Master's of Fine Art at Massey University in Wellington. She has been consistently exhibiting, with recent exhibitions in Auckland, Wellington and Brisbane. She is a fourth generation Australian South Sea Islander with ancestral lineage to the islands of Ambae and Santo of Vanuatu. With a robust process, her research and work examine the historical practice of 'blackbirding' within the Pacific and the legacy and ramifications of this practice on the contemporary and present day.

During the 12 week residency, Jasmine will live on the grounds at the School of Art and while developing her own work, will also deliver presentations to students and staff. She will have full access to the school's world-class facilities, along with external facilities such as the Hocken Library. Jasmine will have time to research and develop work, culminating in an exhibition at the conclusion of the residency.

While in Dunedin, Jasmine is planning to continue her research about the checkered past of the ex-slaver ship, the Don Juan, which currently lies in Deborah Bay, Port Chalmers. The story of the Spanish slave ship, is more well known in the South Island, than in the North Island.

On a previous visit to the Dunedin Maritime Museum, Jasmine briefly explored the origins of the Don Juan and filmed the contents from the ship, that are held at the Museum. She says the fact that she was able to do that, is mind-blowing.

While on her residency, Jasmine will engage with the museum and re-contextualise elements from the ship. The fact that Jasmine will have the chance to respond to the presence of this ship in Aotearoa, is something that she is still processing. "Our culture started on that ship, that's profound - being able to see that, is ridiculous"

Senior Lecturer and the Studio Coordinator for Painting, Graham Fletcher, who is also the Pasifika advisor for the Dunedin School of Art - welcomes the appointment of Jasmine to the residency saying that:

"We really value this partnership with Tautai. We're excited about Jasmine Togo-Brisby starting her artist residency with us. She will bring a unique energy and enthusiasm to the art school that I think the students and wider community will respond to. She'll definitely be a good addition to the Dunedin art scene"



JASMINE TOGO-BRISBY BIOGRAPHY

Jasmine Togo-Brisby (b.1982) is a multi-disciplinary artist from Queensland, Australia, now living and practicing out of Wellington, New Zealand. She is a fourth generation Australian South Sea Islander with ancestral lineage to the islands of Ambae and Santo of Vanuatu. South Sea Islanders are the Australian born descendants of Pacific Islanders who came to Australia as a result of slave labour policies employed by the Australia government between 1863 and 1903.

Togo-Brisby spent the early years of her life in Tweed Heads in Northern New South Wales and her adolescents in Townsville and Mackay in Queensland. Subsequent to completing High School, Togo-Brisby relocated to Brisbane to undertake studies in Fine Arts at Southbank Institute of Technology and later at Queensland College of Art at Griffith University. She is now undertaking a Master's of Fine Art at Massey University in Wellington.

Her research examines the historical practice of 'blackbirding', a romanticised colloquialism for the Pacific slave trade, and the contemporary legacy that this practice has imparted on those who trace their roots to New Zealand and Australia through the slave-diaspora. She is interested in examining the effects of intergenerational trauma transmitted through ongoing oppression across several generations, particularly in contrast to the inheritance of wealth that has come to those who benefitted from slavery and colonisation.

Her recent exhibitions include: OCEANIA, Beaudesert Regional Gallery Queensland, Australia (2018); From where I stand, my eye will send a light to you in the North, Te Tuhi Centre for the Arts Auckland (2018); WANKTOK Touring exhibition - Māngere Arts Centre, Auckland - The Dowse Art Museum, Wellington; Colonial Sugar - Tracey Moffat & Jasmine Togo-Brisby, Wellington City Gallery Wellington; Influx Touring exhibition - St Paul Street Gallery, Auckland - Pataka Art + Museum, Porirua, Wellington; Handle with Care, Te Uru Waitakere Contemporary Gallery (2016) Fish Hooks and Moving Trees, Bundaberg Art Gallery, Queensland (2016); Coconut Water, Caboolture Art Gallery, Brisbane (2015-2016)



Tautai is a place, a people, and a purpose.

We take the lead from our navigating, adventuring ancestors. We encourage a culture of questioning and exploration in all that we do.

The future of Tautai is grounded in a vision to uplift, strengthen and promote the practitioners, thinkers, and researchers in our sector in pursuit of our winning aspiration – to be the best in the world at developing and creating Oceanic art.

Tautai will continue to seek out new energy and different perspectives along our journey to give our projects and initiatives the richness and depth they deserve. We will value and strengthen healthy creative connections, from sending artists around the world on international opportunities through to meaningful talanoa with a cuppa at our office.

We acknowledge our role as guardians of the sector. Tautai is an alive and ongoing world of people with passion and purpose, and together we power Pacific art.

Courtney Sina Meredith

Director, Tautai

Background

Tautai originally started as a support network for the few Pacific artists working in Aotearoa New Zealand in the early 1980's. The name Tautai draws on the Samoan word for navigator, reflecting the desire to work alongside artists and offer guidance in enhancing their art practice.

The organisation is dedicated to the development and ongoing support of Pacific arts and artists. Tautai provides a range of support and opportunities for artists, including mentoring, workshops, exhibitions, professional development, internships, residencies and networking – to support the wider community of Pacific artists.

Tautai has evolved over the years, though always with a focus to support the changing needs of contemporary Pacific artists living and working in Aotearoa New Zealand.