

# Ve'a Margaret Mafile'o



## Biography

b. 09-11-81, Auckland

Ve'a Mafile'o is of Tongan, English/Scottish descent. She was born in Hamilton, New Zealand and raised on a dairy farm in the Waikato. At different times of her childhood she also lived in Tonga.

Ve'a worked as a scuba diver in Vava'u. She then completed a Bachelor of Visual Arts Degree from Auckland University before completing a Graduate Diploma in Fine Arts majoring in 'Moving Image Installation'. Ve'a is currently working in film and television as a freelance Director/Art Director/ Camera OP

Ve'a maintains close ties with her Tongan family and often returns with her sister, photographer Emily Mafile'o to Tonga, where she captures the majority of her raw footage. Ve'a explores issues of her identity and of being multicultural and in recent years she has produced works on Tonga's political evolution. Her most celebrated work "*Sunsets on The Kingdom*" was based on the passing of King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV in 2006. This was the first of a trilogy of installation and film she calls Digital Kava circles. The second, titled "*Who will douse the Kingdom?*", was based on the infamous 2006 September 16<sup>th</sup> riots. The third piece of work titled "*The Kingdom of new beginnings*" celebrates the Coronation of the new king, King George Tupou V in 2007.

Her new lot of Art works explores environmental issues in the Kingdom of Tonga mainly the Ha'apai group. Both natural and man inflicted such as the devastating effects of Tropical Cyclone Ian the sea levels rising. Ve'a lives with her partner, 5 year old son and baby in South Auckland, New Zealand.

## Nominations

2011 *Asia Pacific Breweries Foundation Signature Art Prize 2011*  
Nominator- Ruth McDougall, Associate Curator, Asian and Pacific Art

## Exhibitions

- 2014 *Tuhi va*, Fresh Gallery, Otara Town Centre (Group Show)  
*Over the Line*, Northart, Northcoat Town centre North shore ( Group Show)  
*Tonga 'I Onopooni: Tonga Contemporary*, Partaka Museum (Group Show)
- 2013 *Tongan to the Bone*, OtaraCube, Otara ( joint installation with Emily Mafile'o)  
*No'o Fakataha*, Atenisi University, Tonga (Group Show)

- 2012 *Matala No'o Fakataha*, Mangery Art Centre (Group show)
- 2010 *'Au Mei Moana- Kava Kuo Heka Festival*, Nukualofa, Tonga (Group show)
- 2008 *Date Line: Contemporary Art of the Pacific* - Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth (Group Show)
- 2007 *Who will douse the kingdom?* – te-tuhi (Group show)  
*Perspectives*- August 2-31<sup>st</sup>, Creative New Zealand Offices, Auckland
- 2006 *The Sun Sets on The Kingdom* Manukau Institute of Technology Graduation show (Group show)
- 2004 *Margins*- Creative New Zealand offices, Auckland (Combined Show with Teariki Engu)  
*Birds of Flight, Everyday Super Women* - Art Net, Otara Town Centre (Group Show)  
*Iris Fisher Awards* te tuhi- the mark
- 2003 *Tongan Youth Toutupu Trust Exhibition, 4<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> October* (Group Show)  
*Pasifikaha*, Art Net gallery, Otara, *Pasifikaha Exhibition* (Group Show)  
*Nuimui*, Black Room, Lakeside convention centre (Group Show)  
*Pasifikaha Te Galu Fo`ou – The New Wave*, te tuhi- the mark (Group Show)
- 2002 *Pacific Art Awards* (Group Show)  
*Manukau Youth Art awards*- te tuhi/ the mark (Group Show)
- 2001 *Pacific Art Awards Exhibition* (Group Show)  
*KoKonutti Konection*, Sands Gallery, Hamilton 18<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> November (Combined Show with Emily Mafile`o)
- 2000 Pacific Art Awards Exhibition (Group Show, Open Section Winner)
- 1999 Pacific Art Awards Exhibition (Group Show)
- 1998 Pacific Art Awards Exhibition (Group Show, Winner Secondary School Section)



*"Sunsets on the Kingdom" Installation 2006 MIT*



*"Sunsets on the Kingdom" Installation 2006 MIT*

### **Curated Exhibitions/ Film festivals**

- 2015 *Mai Pasifika film festival*- Sunshine, Melbourne, Australia (In joint Curation with Jerry Tauamiti)
- 2004 *Margins* – Creative New Zealand Office, Auckland. (In joint curation with Teariki Engu)
- 2003 *Pasifikaha*, ArtNet gallery Otara  
*Pasifikaha Te Galu Fo`ou*, te tuhi-the mark (With Emily Mafile`o)
- 2001 *Kokonutti Connection*, Sands Gallery (With Emily Mafile`o)



*"Who will douse the Kingdom" installation 2007, Te tuhi*

## Television

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| 2015           | Director – Fresh at Polyfest Tongan Stage 2015<br>Producer: Lisa Taouma   |
| 2014           | Director – “2Kaha”<br>Producer: Nicola Smith  |
|                | Props Co-ordinator – “Whanau Living” ( TV1)<br>Producer: Dana Youngman  |
| 2011- ongoing  | Inserts Director “ VPMusic Awards” (TV1)<br>Producer: Ngaire Fuata  |
| 2011- ongoing  | Inserts Director “NZ PI Sports awards” (TV1)<br>Producer: Ngaire Fuata<br><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=noNoMudJeOg">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=noNoMudJeOg</a>                               |
| 2011- ongoing  | Inserts Director- “Samoan Sports awards” (TV1)<br>Producer: Ngaire Fuata  |
| 2013- 2014     | Director- “Home Krew” (TV2)<br>Producer: Nicole Hoey and Keith<br><a href="http://tvnz.co.nz/home-krew/video">http://tvnz.co.nz/home-krew/video</a>   |
| 2012- 2013     | Tonga Stage Director– “ASB Polyfest” (TVNZ)<br>Producer: Lisa Taouma<br><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p3_NopHfFt8">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p3_NopHfFt8</a>                                 |
| 2012- ongoing  | Compile Director /Director/ Set Dresser/Cam Op/Media manager – Fresh” (TV2)<br>Producer: Lisa Taouma<br><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rqSk6pol_ck">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rqSk6pol_ck</a> |
| 2012- 2013     | Compile Director/Director/Camera – IAM TV (TV2)<br>Producer: Lanita Ririnui, Anahera Higgins<br><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=huisKXeQQgA">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=huisKXeQQgA</a>         |
| 2012           | Camera/Media Manager - "Samoa mo Samoa 50th Anniversary Special"(TVNZ)<br>Producer: Stephen Stehlin   |
| 2011           | Art Director- “What’s in our foods” (TV3)<br>Producer: Simone Harris  |
| 2011 – 2008    | Stage Camera Director – “ASB Polyfest” (TVNZ)<br>Producer: Lisa Taouma  |
| 2008 - ongoing | Director/Reporter – “Tagata Pasifika” (TVNZ)<br>Producers: Stephen Stehlin  |
| 2010 - 2006    | Art Director – “Pacific Beat Street” (TV3)  |

Producers: Drum Productions

2007 – 2008 Camera Operator – “Pacific Beat Street” (TV3)  
Producers: Drum Productions

2009 – 2004 Art Director Assistant- “Pacific Beat Street” (TV3)  
Producers: Drum Productions

2008 Art Director – “Whanau” (Maori TV)  
Producers: Cinco Cine

2005 Art Director assistant/ Set builder- “The Mika Show” (Maori TV)  
Producer: Mika and Mark James Hamilton

**Film**

2013 Actor, Art Director – “Broken Silence” (Short Film)  
V48 hours film festival – Sir Peter Jackson Choice finalist  
<http://www.48hours.co.nz/screening-room/2013/auckland/broken-silence/>

Art Director- Last Saint ( 1<sup>st</sup> Trailer)  
Producer: Rene Naufahu

2012 Art Director – “Daylight Robbery” (Short Film)  
V48 hours film festival – Sir Peter Jackson Choice finalist  
<http://www.48hours.co.nz/screening-room/2012/auckland/daylight-robbery/>

2011 Art Director/Set Designer- “Finding Honk” (Feature Film)  
Producer: Eldon Booth  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UkeWBtI2xMU>

Actor, Art Director – “The Box” (Short Film)  
V48 hours film festival

2010 Art Director – “Reggae is My Heart” Babylon Riddim (Music Video)  
NZonAir, Youth Performance Trust

2010 Actor, Art Director – “Carousel” (Short Film)  
V48 hours film festival – Sir Peter Jackson Choice finalist  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pFS72H3KP6U>

2009 Art Director – “Fanatics” (Short Film)  
V48 hours film festival – Peter Jackson Choice finalist

2008 Assistant Director/ Art Director “Mua O: An Introduction to Gagana Samoa”.  
NZ Ministry of Education. (DVD Teaching Resource).

2008 Art Director – “In Search of Bigfoot”  
V48 hours film festival - Peter Jackson Choice finalist

2006 Art Director – “365 days”  
V48 hours film festival – Auckland finalist

2006 – 2007 Set Dresser – “Map Reader” (Feature film)  
Producer: John Davies



"Tongan to the bone" installation 2013, OtaraCube

## WEB PRODUCTION

2013- ongoing



Website channel – [www.thecoconet.tv](http://www.thecoconet.tv) (2013 - 2014 ongoing)

<http://www.thecoconet.tv/how-to/catch-an-octopus-feke/>

<http://www.thecoconet.tv/how-to/ngatu-tonga/>

<http://www.thecoconet.tv/know-your-roots/the-legend-of-tokamotu-of-tuapa/>

Role: Video insert Director

Duties: Field, and post production director, writer, Cam OP

Producers: Flying Jandals – Lisa Taouma

## Events and Interior Design

2015	Pacific Advanced Senior School PPAT Otahuhu, Auckland
2015 - 2007	Director of Event Dressing (TVNZ) New Zealand Pacific Island Music Awards 2010 Pacific Music Awards Committee
2012 – 2010	Pre-Judging Dressing "Westfield Style Pasifika" (TVNZ) Drum Productions
2013 - 2007	Director of Event Dressing

Smokefree Pasifika Beats  
Youth Performance Trust

2008

Director of Event Dressing  
ASB TVNZ Polyfest Showcase 2008

## **Education**

Grad Diploma Fine Arts (Auckland University 2007)

Bachelor of Visual Arts, Major- Sculpture (Auckland University 2006)  
Minor-Moving image and Painting

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