

THE SANCTUM RESIDING

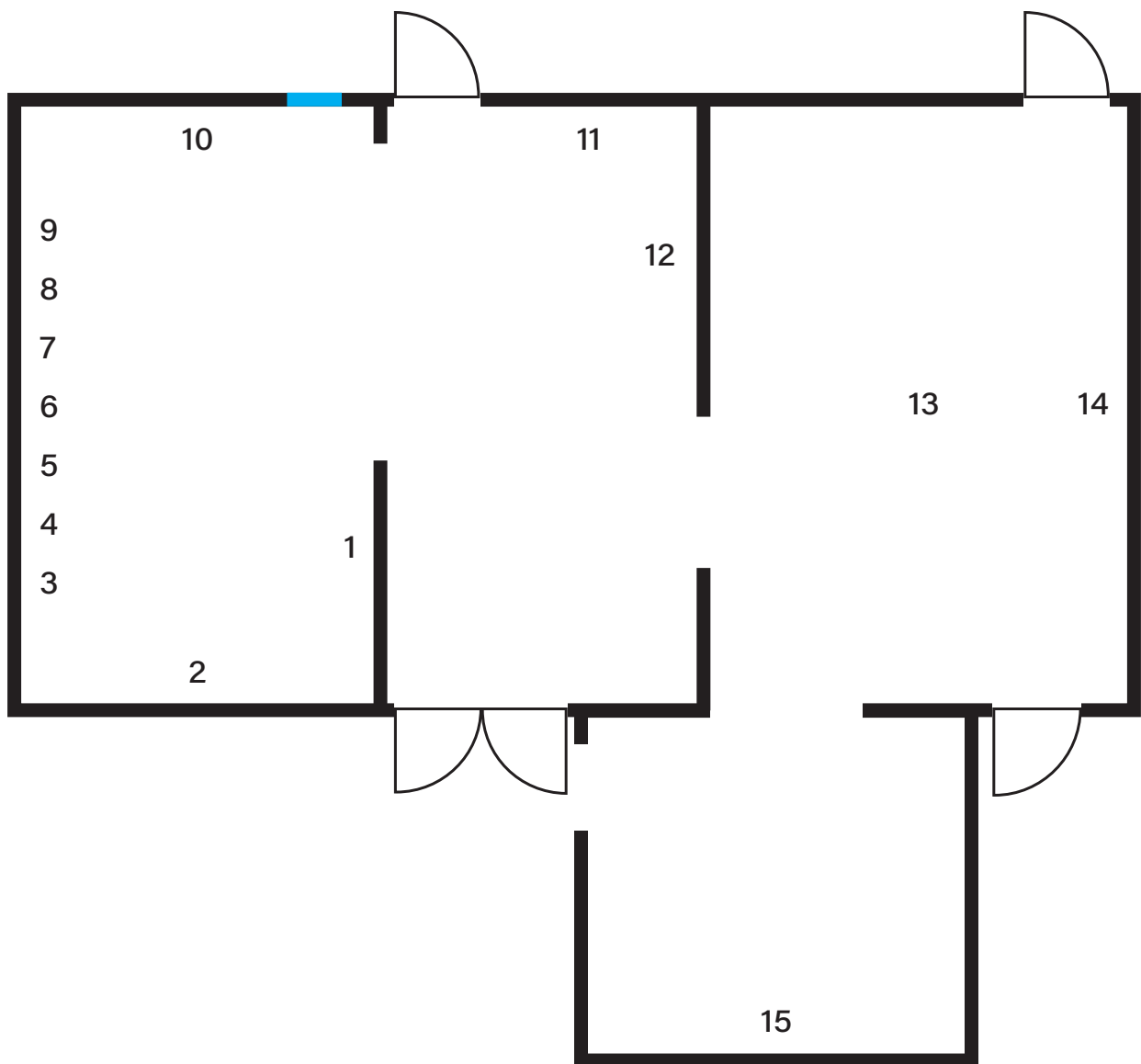
DIANA HU 胡梦圆, ALISON LEAUANAE,
IOKAPETA MAGELE-SUAMASI,
TEREMOANA RAPLEY, LINDA VA'AELUA

20 April – 18 May

The Sanctum Residing

The Sanctum Residing showcases the work of five exceptional contemporary female artists. Amidst the dynamic flux of our modern world, the exhibition offers a reflective pause, inviting contemplation on art making as a sanctum for the artist in today's reality.

Gallery map



List of works

Alison Leauanae

1. *Strength and Dignity*, 2023
Cotton hand-stitched on paper
685mm x 570mm (framed)
560mm x 460mm (unframed)
2. *Kindness and Truth*, 2023
Cotton hand-stitched on paper
685mm x 570mm (framed)
560mm x 460mm (unframed)

Iokapeta Magele-Suamasi

3. *Lament 1*
4. *Lament 3*
5. *Lament 2*
6. *Lament 6*
7. *Lament 10*
8. *Lament 5*
9. *Lament 9*

From the *Psalms of Lament* series, 2024
Photography, assemblage, digital print,
paper 190 gsm

10. *A Tethered Vessel*

From the *Psalms of Lament* series, 2024
Sculpture, assemblage, white plastic pale,
aluminium chains, acrylic painted harakeke

Linda Va'aelua

11. *77*, 2024
Acrylic paint and stitched wool
on hessian
640mm x 1000mm
12. *Auckland*, 2024
Acrylic paint on hessian
640mm x 1000mm

Teremoana Rapley

13. *Stacked*, 2022
Photography, digital print, custom
playing card set of fifty two cards

Tranquillity / Feminine, 2022
14. Unframed, textured paper, matte,
1500mm x 760mm

Diana Hu 胡梦圆

15. *Prayer Book*, 2024
(reworked from 2018)
Video projection
Duration: 3 minutes 26 seconds

Diana Hu 胡梦圆



Prayer Book, 2024

Dancers in order of appearance:

John Vaifale aka Happyfeet, Diana Hu aka Dianamite, Mele Tapueluelu aka Princess Brui5er, Lady AK, Daniel Jang aka Bboy Simba

Song:

Cover of 'I lift up my hands', originally performed by Israel Houghton

Tongan translation: Late Sione Mulikiha'aano Vehikite / Music engineer and other

instruments: Lasalo Elia / Vocals and keys: Sisela Latu / Creative producer: Sci Vehikite

"Dancers are the athletes of God" — Albert Einstein

This video is inspired by anonymous entries from a public prayer request book in Auckland University's MacLauren Chapel foyer which contains hundreds of hand-written prayers and messages to God from people of seemingly different cultures, ages and walks of life. These entries span over three decades, dating back to 1988, from those who have visited the chapel, including myself. Up to the time that this video was initially drafted in 2018, the prayer book was still available for the public to write in.

Upon close observation of the entries in the book, prayers and messages of gratitude were most commonly mentioned. Furthermore, they were almost always accompanied with uncertainty, hardships or tragedy experienced by the writer at the time as explained within the same entry. Glimpses of these prayers can be seen in the video with words and phrases from the book.

The dancers in this video showcase street-dance forms of K.R.U.M.P (an acronym for Kingdom Radically Uplifting Mighty Praise), popping and Bboying (breakdancing) which are all dance forms originating from ghetto areas of America. In some ways, the expression through street dance to the praise and worship song in this video can be synonymous with the act of praise and spiritual warfare by those facing difficult times in the prayer book.

Diana Hu 胡梦圆 (BFA, BA/LLB) is an Auckland-based creative artist who immigrated from Guangzhou, China at age 7. She has been involved in the freestyle street dance and hip-hop community (popping and breaking) since 2005. Diana is also a visual artist whose Chinese roots, Christian faith, and community informs and inspires her art practice.

Diana runs 'Street Talk', which aims to highlight local New Zealand street dance and hip-hop culture through events, lens media and publication.

CONTACT

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Alison Leauanae



Strength and Dignity, 2023

Kindness and Truth, 2023

These 'virtuous adornments' capture the timeless wisdom of two ancient proverbs:

'Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she smiles at the future.'

'Do not let kindness and truth leave you, bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.'

'Strength and dignity' appear as two pillars referencing motifs found in traditional Samoan 'malu' tattooed on a woman's thighs. 'Kindness and truth' are depicted as an 'ula' or necklace to adorn the neck.

These works remind us of the enduring value of strength, dignity, kindness, and truth — virtues that not only enrich our personal journeys, but also bind us to the greater tapestry of humanity.

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Alison Leauanae is a Tamaki Makaurau-born and raised self-taught artist, currently residing in Te-Whanganui-a-Tara. Her contemporary stitched works on paper are inspired by connections to the past that inform the present and consider a hopeful future, using motifs and a visual language influenced by her diverse cultural heritage — NZ Pakeha (Scottish, English), Samoan (Magiagi, Saleaula, Lano, Samata), and faith.

CONTACT

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Iokapeta Magele-Suamasi



Psalms of Lament series, 2024

This series is new work representing a deeply personal journey of adversity and faith. Each artwork in this digital art series depicts inner emotional turmoil symbolising beauty, home, family and faith in the midst of fear, anxiety and confusion.

The digital prints are photographs of curated assemblages made from found objects of pacific kitsch adornments from home intertwined with natural and industrial elements. The artist has arranged these compositions inside large paint pales/buckets and photographed them from above, creating a striking series of surrealist Pacific art pieces. Each object is imbued with layers of symbolism and meaning during moments of darkness and prayer. These are then enhanced in the post-production phase by overly saturating colour and contrast for the work.

Woven throughout each composition is a heavy aluminium chain, symbolising the heavy burden of worry and anxiety, and the *"sinking twisted feeling in the pit of your stomach"*. Therefore, the industrial chain link also represents the strength to support and affirm those in suffering as those on the outside of the tethered vessel. Inspired by the Psalms of Lament in biblical literature, these artworks were created as visual prayers of solace and encouragement in times of suffering drawing strength from a Faith in God through daily reading of the book of Psalms.

As visual narratives of symbolism and introspection within a Pacific surrealist framework, the Psalms of Lament series invites viewers to delve into realms of curiosity and wonder, exploring expressive abstract surrealism.

Iokapeta Magele-Suamasi (MA Art, MTech, Dip. Design) is a New Zealand born Sāmoan artist (Lufilufi | Satalo, Falealili), arts consultant, curator and technologist. Her background includes two decades in the art sector as an artist, educator and manager in the Cultural Heritage Sector leading gallery outreach and education at Toi ō Tāmaki Auckland Art Gallery. She holds two master's degrees in Arts Management (1st class hons) and Technological Futures with published research in a Moana Oceania lens on NFTS. Her work in the community of South Auckland, where she resides, includes co-leading STEAM activities for local schools, being a trustee of the historic Hillary House Leadership Centre, and being a trust advisor for the historic St Johns Church in East Tamaki. She is currently completing a research residency with Samoa House Library, exploring digital preservation, and is a full-time exhibiting artist and co-director of I.M-S Arts Consultancy.

CONTACT

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Teremoana Rapley



Stacked, 2022

Tranquillity / Feminine, 2022

From the series 'Ui, created February 2022 / Matriarchitect: Teremoana Rapley

Image captured by: Villiamu Urale / Colouring: Geoff Budd / Studio: Lensflare, Henderson

Have you ever tried to invite peace into your inner self?

Slow breath in through your nose

Long breath out through your mouth

Repeat as required

Have you ever spoken to each atom of your physical being

and whispered I love you and thank you

Slow breath in through your nose

Long breath out through your mouth

Repeat as required

You should try it some-time

#great&full

Finding the calm in the middle of a lifelong autoimmune diagnosis, I decided to do an exhibition. This was one of fourteen images displayed, and also used for the artwork *Stacked*. This image represents *Feminine* and replaces the Queen within the traditional playing cards. It is based on a series of images I designed for my three-night theatre show listening party called *daughter* at Kia Mau festival, Wellington June 2021.

An award-winning beat-making ex-rapper, Teremoana has spent the past three decades working across multiple sectors and industries. She was inducted into the Aotearoa Music Hall of Fame alongside politically conscious rap group Upper Hutt Posse in 2018 and received a New Zealand Order of Merit for her work in music and television in 2021.

She has spent over 25 years producing mainstream and indigenous TV content; managed international and domestic entertainment tours; set up and operated a family screen-printing business; designed and delivered social change initiatives for local and central government and, after raising four sons, continues a 30+ year musical journey with her highly anticipated debut trilogy album, *Daughter of a Housegirl, Daily Incantations* and *Cleaning House*.

Her last solo exhibition, 'Ui, was an insight into the life of a Black Moana woman growing up in Aotearoa as a mother, grandmother, sister, and daughter of a house-girl; she re-examined colonisation within the context of her own privilege. Her work for *The Sanctum Residing* pays homage to her Jamaican lineage and is a personal reminder to maintain a connection to self.

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Linda Va'aelua



77, 2024

Auckland, 2024

Linda Va'aelua's work explores ideas around her mixed heritage through the Samoan concept of the Vā. The Vā between herself and her culture, between Samoa and Aotearoa, between Samoa and Scotland.

Opposing and contrasting elements that sometimes conflict yet co-exist and balance. All of these ideas become the visual language of what she has been exploring through abstracted mauga (mountain) forms, and traditional patterns of identity. The ancient motifs from her Samoan malu (tattoo) which adorn her legs to the Livingston clan tartan of her grandfather.

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Linda Va'aelua has a Bachelor of Design (Visual Communications) from Unitec. She is of Samoan and Scottish heritage and grew up in West Auckland, New Zealand. With more than 20 years' experience as a graphic designer, she was the first Pasifika Art Director for the *NZ Woman's Weekly* and has worked on other publications such as the *NZ Listener*. Most recently she designed the award-winning book *NUKU: Stories of 100 Indigenous Women* (finalist Ockham Book Awards 2022, finalist PANZ Book Design Awards 2022). In 2021 she launched her visual arts career with a virtual exhibition *HALF*, and since then has been practising as a full-time artist with numerous exhibitions to date.

Free public programmes

CREATIVE THURSDAYS: FREE CREATIVE TALK SERIES

Meet the artists from *The Sanctum Residing*

Thursday 2 May, 6-8pm (talk starts at 6.30pm)

Join us for this inspiring series in which creative professionals talk about their career journeys and give you the chance to meet other creatives. Held in the Nathan Homestead theatre in partnership with South Space, the new co-working lab at Nathan Homestead.

FREE GELLI PLATE PRINTING WORKSHOP

Saturday 11 May, 11am-1pm, Drawing Room (suitable for ages 12+)

Discover the basics of Gelli Plate printing with Iokapeta Magele-Suamasi, a multidisciplinary artist, educator and curator based in South Auckland. Join us to unlock your creativity! All materials will be provided. Spaces are limited; phone or email the gallery to register.

Front image: lokapeta Magele-Suamasi, *Lament 6* (detail), *Psalms of Lament* series, 2024

NATHAN HOMESTEAD
PUKEPUKE

