

# **Lisa Reihana**

## **Artist Statement and Biography**

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### **Artist Statement**

In Neoclassical France, entrepreneur Joseph Dufour used the latest printing innovations to produce the sophisticated scenic wallpaper *Les Sauvages de la Mer Pacifique* (1804). It mirrored a widespread fascination with the Pacific voyages undertaken by Captain Cook, Bougainville and de la Perouse; and its exotic themes made explicit reference to popular botanical and natural history illustrations of the time.

Two hundred years later, Maori artist Lisa Reihana employs twenty-first century digital technologies to animate the wallpaper and re-examine its conceptual framework. The video in *In Pursuit of Venus*, is a vast panoramic field populated by a myriad of people drawn from across the Pacific and New Zealand. Where *Les Sauvages de la Mer Pacifique* was a Grecian concoction, *In Pursuit of Venus* is enlivened with the sights and sounds of dance and cultural ceremonies enacted by living, breathing peoples.

Separated by two centuries, both the wallpaper and video are set against a utopian Tahitian landscape. While Dufour's work modeled Enlightenment beliefs and ideas of harmony amongst mankind, Reihana's reading of the past is more nuanced. To challenge historical and contemporary stereotypes, the artist foregrounds the complexities of cultural identity and returns the gaze of imperialism with a speculative twist that disrupts notions of beauty, authenticity, history and myth.

## Artist Biography

**Lisa Reihana**  
**New Zealand**

### Education

- 2014 MDES Unitec School of Visual Art and Design  
1987 BFA Elam School of Fine Arts, Auckland University

### Solo exhibitions

- 2013 in Pursuit of Venus A-Space Gallery: Toronto, Canada  
2012 Nga Hau e wha Papakura Art Gallery: Auckland, NZ  
PELT Fehily Contemporary: Melbourne, Australia  
2010 Te Po o Matariki Toi Whenua commission: Corbans Estate; Bruce Mason Theatre, NZ  
2008 Mai i te aroha, ko te aroha Te Papa: Wellington, NZ  
2007 Digital Marae Govett Brewster Art Gallery: New Plymouth, NZ  
Native Portraits Museo Laboratorio Arte Contemporanea: Rome, Italy  
2006 Tamaki of 100 Suitors '5-4-3-2-1' Auckland Art Gallery: Auckland, NZ  
Some Girls + Colour of Sin Snowwhite Gallery: Auckland, NZ  
2005 New Works Adam Art Gallery: Wellington, NZ  
2004 the colour of sin Ramp Gallery: Hamilton, NZ  
2003 Digital Marae Dowse Museum: Lower Hutt; Whangarei Art Museum, NZ  
Readymade Institute of Modern Art: Brisbane, Australia  
2002 pancake ASA Gallery: Auckland, NZ  
flight Cuckoo Project Dunedin Public Art Gallery: Dunedin, NZ  
2000 reihanamations films Adelaide Biennale: Adelaide, Australia

### Selected exhibitions

- 2013 eight@six Silo Park: Auckland, NZ  
Suspended Histories Museum Van Loon: Amsterdam, Holland

- 2012 Partner Dance Auckland Art Gallery: Auckland, NZ  
Contact -Artists from Aotearoa Frankfurter Kunstverein: Frankfurt, Germany  
in Pursuit of Venus Alberton House: Auckland, NZ  
Home on Native Land TIFF Bell Lightbox: Toronto, Canada  
Beyond Likeness Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery: Perth, Australia  
Restless Samstag Museum: International Arts Festival Adelaide, Australia
- 2011 Oceania: Imagining the Pacific Wellington City Gallery: Wellington, NZ  
E Tu Ake, Maori Standing Strong Te Papa Tongarewa: Wellington, NZ  
Uncontainable Second Nature ISEA Istanbul Biennale. Cumhuriyet Art Gallery:  
Maksem, Istanbul  
Stop [the] gap Samstag Museum: Adelaide, Australia.  
Close Encounters: the next 500 years Plug In: Winnipeg, Canada.
- 2010 Digital Marae Campbelltown Art Centre: Sydney, Australia  
Nga Hau e Wha 4A Gallery: Sydney, Australia  
Singular Companions Govett Brewster Art Gallery: New Plymouth, NZ  
Ethknowcentrix October Gallery: London, UK  
Roundabout City Gallery: Wellington, NZ  
Unnerved Gallery of Modern Art: Brisbane, Australia  
Nga Hau e Wha Lopdell Gallery: Auckland, NZ  
Trickster Gyeonggi Museum of Modern Art: Gyeonggi, Korea  
Mana Maori Museum Volkenkunde: Leiden, Holland  
Re-counting Coup A Space Gallery: Toronto, Canada
- 2009 Anne Landa Digital Art Award AGNSW: Sydney, Australia  
In Pursuit of the Ancestral Realm Kaohsiung Museum: Kaohsiung, Taiwan  
Maui AM I Scared, Boy (EH) Govett Brewster Art Gallery: New Plymouth, NZ  
Te Taonga Tuturu Whakatane Museum: Whakatane, NZ  
Ka Mau te Wehi St Paul St Gallery: Auckland, NZ  
Latitudes La Habana Biennale, Centro Desarrollo de las Artes Visuales: Habana,  
Cuba  
Move Me Webbs: Auckland, NZ  
AM I scared boy (EH) Govett Brewster Art Gallery: New Plymouth, NZ  
Mind Games Artspace Hawkes Bay Cultural Trust: Hastings, NZ
- 2008 Walters Art Prize New Gallery: Auckland, NZ  
Liverpool Biennale FACT: Liverpool, UK  
Te Taitanga Bind Together Southwest School of Art Texas, USA  
Dateline Govett Brewster Art Gallery: New Plymouth, NZ  
Latitudes Jean Tjibaou Centre: New Caledonia
- 2007 Dateline Neuer Berliner Kunstverein: Berlin, Germany  
Global Feminisms Brooklyn Museum: New York, USA  
Video Block 3 - Neuseeland Peng raum fur kunst: Mannheim, Germany

2006 Unwrapped Missoula Art Museum: Texas, USA  
Pasifika Styles Cambridge Museum: Cambridge, UK

### **Fellowships**

2013 Montalvo Artist in Residence California, USA

2009 McCahon Artist in Residence Auckland, NZ  
SCANZ Digital Artist in Residence New Plymouth, NZ

2006 Digital Artist in Residence Waikato University, NZ

2003 Communion & Other Conversations Residency Banff New Media Centre: Banff, Canada  
Institute of Modern Art Artist in Residence Brisbane, Australia

1992 Trustbank Canterbury Artist in Residence Christchurch Arts Centre, NZ

1988 Australian Centre for Photography Artist in Residence Sydney, Australia

### **Commissions**

2011 Rangimarie Last Dance Q Theatre: Auckland, NZ

2010 Kupenga Victoria Park Tunnel: Te To Bridge, Victoria Park & Motorway designs Auckland, NZ

2008 Mai I te aroha, ko te aroha Te Ara a Hine: Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington, NZ

1998 Native Portraits Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington, NZ