

Luke Willis Thompson

Artist Statement and Biography

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Untitled comprises three garage doors, which carry a faint trace of spray paint markings. Attempts have clearly been made to remove or conceal the spray paint marks, yet the trace of the marking remains. The work deals with a site of trauma in Manurewa, Auckland, where in the early hours of 26 January 2008 teenage boy Pihema Cameron was stabbed to death by Bruce Emery after he found Cameron tagging his garage door. The garage doors contains the trace of this act, which the family later tried to hide, or remove, but this concealment is not totally effective. Luke negotiated with the new owner of the property to remove the garage doors and in exchange he would fund the realisation renovations to the space that go some way in contributing to the healing process for that place. Through the act of exchange Luke changed the way that site looked from the street, in an effort to erase association with the incident.

Artist Biography

Luke Willis Thompson New Zealand

b. 1988, Auckland

Lives and works in Auckland, New Zealand

Education

- 2013 Städelshule, Staatliche Hochschule für Bildende Künste, Frankfurt am Main, Germany (Guest Student, Prof. Willem de Rooij)
- 2010 MFA Elam School of Fine Arts, University of Auckland
- 2009 BFA Elam School of Fine Arts, University of Auckland

Residencies

- 2013 Weltkulturen Museum, Frankfurt am Main

Selected Exhibitions/Projects

- 2013 Gift, Legacy, Acquisition, Exchange - Anthropology and the Geography of Trade, Weltkulturen Museum, Frankfurt am Main (group, upcoming)
On this day alone (curated by Glenn Barkley), Gertrude Contemporary, Melbourne (group)
If you were to live here..., Auckland Triennial (curated by Hou Hanru), Auckland Art Gallery, Auckland (group)
- 2012 Between memory and trace, Te Tuhi Centre for the Arts, Pakuranga (group)
Made Active: The Chartwell Show (curated by Natasha Conland), Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tamaki, Auckland (performance)
In Spite of Ourselves: Approaching Documentary, St Paul St Gallery, AUT, Auckland
(group) inthisholeonthisislandwhereiam, Hopkinson Cundy, Auckland (solo)
- 2011 S/F newspaper project, Auckland (publication)
- 2010 Elam Graduate Show: MFA Program, Elam School of Fine Arts, Auckland (solo presentation)
Make\Shift: Tautai's third tertiary show (curated by Nina Tonga), St Paul St Gallery, Auckland
Memory to the marrow (with Sue-li Tasker-Yeo), Projectspace B4321, Auckland
- 2009 When we read, we really read, George Fraser Gallery, Auckland (group)

2008 Deadline Authentico!, George Fraser Gallery, Auckland (group)