

## **Sriwhana Spong**

### Artist Statement and Biography

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#### **Artist Statement**

*Beach Study* is filmed on Waiheke, an island in Auckland's harbor, and is an exploration of, and an intuitive response, to site. The island was once home to those seeking an alternative lifestyle but is now in the process of gentrification. The beach documented in the film is where Spong spent summers as a child. In recent years this public beach has seen access to it prohibited due to private ownership of the surrounding land; cutting off from the local community a once treasured location strongly embedded in local cultural memory. Now the only way to access the bay is by boat or trespassing.

*Beach Study* explores the precarious nature of possession and memory through the artist's physical response to site in movements made from recollections of the beach and adapted to the terrain of the bay. The small choreographies, taken from both classical training and everyday movements, describe an attempt to reconcile and collapse the habits formed by a body colonized through a particular philosophy of movement learned during the artist's early training in ballet. Treating this imbedded structure like an unwanted possession, the body attempts to destabilize itself against the muscle's embedded memory of line and balance, creating a tussle at the heart of these movements.

In addition to the idiosyncrasies of the 16mm film stock used in *Beach Study*, the use of coloured filters bring intense flashes of colour that flicker and morph with the landscape and the moving figure, while the square 16mm frame embedded within an HD 16:9 format points to shifting technologies of representation and how these influence the way we frame the world. In this work Spong makes a personal observation of disappearance – that of a once loved childhood beach now made inaccessible through private ownership. Fleeting moments and corporeal recollections form an exploration of the precarious relationship between memory and experience, the public and private, possession and letting go.

## **Artist Biography**

### **Sriwhana Spong New Zealand**

b. 1979 Auckland New Zealand

## **Education & Awards**

2005 Winner Trust Waikato National Contemporary Art Award

1998-2001 Bachelor of Fine Arts, Elam School of Fine Arts, University of Auckland

## **Selected Solo Exhibitions**

- 2012 Lethe-wards Neuer Kunstverein Wien, Vienna  
Actions and Remains Terrace Sculpture Commission, Auckland Art Gallery, Auckland  
The Purple Blotter Michael Lett, Auckland
- 2011 Fanta, Silver and Song Gertrude Contemporary, Melbourne
- 2010 Channelling Mr B Michael Lett Gallery, Auckland  
Lethe-wards Basel Statements, Basel  
Dancing Celestial The Physics Room, Christchurch
- 2009 Torn and Untroubled Y3k, Melbourne
- 2008 Myth and Practice The NZ Film Archive, Wellington  
Solar Midnight Anna Miles Gallery, Auckland  
Backdrop Newcall, Auckland
- 2007 Beetlejuice Arts pace, Sydney
- 2006 Candlestick Park Anna Miles Gallery, Auckland
- 2005 Muttnik Anna Miles Gallery, Auckland
- 2003 C'est La Vie ma Cherie Anna Miles Gallery, Auckland

## **Selected Group Shows**

- Upcoming 24 Frames per Second Carriageworks, Sydney  
Art Basel Hong Kong Film Program
- 2013 Taking Form with Agathe-Goth Snape, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney

- Zizhiqu-Autonomous Regions Guandong Times Museum, Guangzhou  
Between Being and Doing, Utopian Slums, Melbourne
- 2012 The Walters Prize 2012 Auckland Art Gallery, Auckland  
All Our Relations 18th Biennale of Sydney, Sydney
- 2011 Prospect Wellington City Art Gallery, Wellington  
Collecting Contemporary Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington  
Toi Aotearoa Auckland Art Gallery, Auckland  
Christian Jankowski, Richard Maloy, Sriwhana Spong Sue Crockford Gallery,  
Auckland
- 2010 Unnerved: The New Zealand Project National Gallery Victoria, Melbourne  
Scene Shifts Bonnierskonsthall, Stockholm  
Exhibitions Project Arts Centre, Dublin  
Discrete Object Utopian Slums, Melbourne  
It Happened That St Pauls St, Auckland
- 2009 New World Records Sutton Gallery, Melbourne  
For Keeps, Sampling Recent Acquisitions 2006-2009 Auckland Art Gallery,  
Auckland  
Tactical Support: Curator's Choice Tracy Williams Ltd, New York
- 2008 Moving Light with Jonathan Jones, Fremantle Arts Centre, Perth  
Open Studios International Studio and Curatorial Programme, New York  
Limbo Land Anna Miles Gallery, Auckland  
Ethnographies of the Future BRIC Rotunda Gallery, New York  
Group Show 1301 PE, Los Angeles
- 2007 Regarding Fear and Hope Monash University, Melbourne, Australia  
Twone Collaboration with Kate Newby, Physics Room, Christchurch  
Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Wolf, Te Tuhi, Auckland  
Turbulence 3'0 Auckland Triennale, Artspace, Auckland
- 2006 Don't Misbehave SCAPE Biennale, Christchurch  
Satellite, Shanghai, China  
A Tale of Two Cities Susan Biennale, Korea  
Twin Oak Drive 2x2 Contemporary Projects, City Gallery, Wellington  
Local Transit Arts pace, Auckland  
Single Currency VCA, Melbourne, Australia  
Earthly Delight Anna Miles Gallery, Auckland  
An Unlikely Return to the Legend of Origins Sparwasser HQ, Berlin

## **Programme Screenings**

- 2012 Artists Film International, Galleria d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea, Italy;  
Whitechapel Gallery, London; Ballroom Marfa, Marfa  
Raiding the Archives Bangkok Experimental Film Festival6, Thai Film Archive,  
Bangkok
- 2011 Rencontres Internationales Centre Pompidou, Paris
- 2007 Lost and Found City Gallery, Wellington
- 2006 Happy Believers Werkleitz Biennale, Halle, Germany  
Staring into Space, Trafo Space, Budapest  
The Peninsula Singapore History Museum, Singapore
- 2005 Viewfinder The Film Archive, Auckland City Library  
Squared Wellington City Art Gallery, Wellington

## **Residency Programmes**

- 2008 ISCP, New York
- 2007 Artspace, Sydney

## **Collections**

Auckland Art Gallery, (hartwell Collection, Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, Adam  
Art  
Gallery, Queensland Art Gallery