

waka kuaka

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in a room, in a house, on an island, in an ocean



The Polynesian Society

Waipapa Taumata Rau | The University of Auckland, New Zealand

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Guest Editor

ANDREA LOW

Editor

MARCIA LEENEN-YOUNG

Reviews Editor

ANDREA LOW

Editorial Assistant

MONA-LYNN COURTEAU

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Cover image: Jimmy Ma'ia'i, *Sunday Best*, plastic outdoor chairs, plastic primer, enamel paint. Image courtesy of Enjoy Contemporary Art Space. Photograph by Cheska Brown, Nov. 2022.

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Inquiries should be made to:

Secretary
jps@auckland.ac.nz
The Polynesian Society
c/- Pacific Studies, School of Social Sciences
Waipapa Taumata Rau The University of Auckland
Private Bag 92019, Auckland

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CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

Alexandria Hawley is a current Master of Arts student at Waipapa Taumata Rau The University of Auckland and 2023 Fulbright Graduate Awardee. A proud citizen of the Navajo Nation, she is invested in Indigenous adornment, cultural perpetuation and healing through creation. As a beadwork and textile artist, Alex is studying how museums and galleries in Aotearoa New Zealand collaborate with and centre Māori and Pacific artists, communities and knowledge keepers. Alex received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Dartmouth College in 2019, where she majored in anthropology and Native American studies. Her undergraduate research centred on Diné childbearing practices of the Northern Navajo Nation.

Irene Karongo Hundleby (Solomon Islands, Aotearoa New Zealand) is an ethnomusicologist, musician and composer. Irene's research work focuses on documenting Indigenous knowledge, stories and perspectives related to Pasifika music, arts and culture. Irene is co-founder of the Māori and Pasifika Education Trust (Aotearoa) and the new Manu Scripts publishing entity, co-facilitator of the Ōtepoti Pasifika Arts Collective, liaison officer for Solomon Islands for the International Council for Traditions of Music and Dance, and co-owner of Relics independent music store in Ōtepoti (Dunedin), Aotearoa. Irene's collaborative work focuses on grassroots projects that aim to improve access, cultural visibility and equality in the arts.

Liam Koka'ua is of Ngāti Makea Ārera, Rarotonga, and traverses between Te Ao Māori and Indigenous Te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa (Pacific Ocean) worldviews, which he does through his knowledge of languages, whakapapa (genealogy) and voyaging traditions and his research into Indigenous resource management practices. He has experience in nongovernmental organisations, local government and trust boards dealing with the integration of Western and Indigenous knowledge systems. Currently Liam is a project curator working on the development of a new natural environment and human impacts gallery underpinned by mātauranga Māori (Māori knowledge) that will open at Tāmaki Paenga Hira Auckland War Memorial Museum in 2025.

Lana Lopesi is an assistant professor in the Department of Indigenous, Race and Ethnic Studies at the University of Oregon, where she teaches across her areas of research including Pacific Islander studies, Indigenous feminism and contemporary art. She is the author of *False Divides* (Bridget Williams Books, 2018) and *Bloody Woman* (Bridget Williams Books, 2021), editor of *Pacific Arts Aotearoa* (Penguin Books & Creative New Zealand, 2023) and co-editor of *Towards a Grammar of Race in Aotearoa New Zealand* (Bridget Williams Books, 2022) and *Pacific Spaces: Translations and Transmutations* (Berghahn Books, 2023). Her family is from the villages of Satapuala and Siumu, Sāmoa.

Andrea Low (‘Ōiwi, Tongareva, Sāmoa, iTaukei, Scotland) is Associate Curator, Contemporary World at Tāmaki Paenga Hira Auckland War Memorial Museum, where she co-curated the permanent exhibition *Tāmaki Herenga Waka: Stories of Auckland*. Andrea is a Council member of the Polynesian Society and Reviews

Editor for the Society's journal, *Waka Kuaka*. She is also on the advisory board of *Marinade: Aotearoa Journal of Moana Art* and a board member for Te Uru Waitākere Contemporary Gallery in Tāmaki Makaurau (Auckland).

Ruby Macomber (Ngā Puhī, Rotuma, Fiji, Scotland) is a poet and author currently completing a BA/LLB in Pacific studies, psychology and law at Waipapa Taumata Rau The University of Auckland. Ruby has published creative writing in literary journals and magazines including *Landfall*, *Metro*, and *The Pantograph Punch*. In 2022 she won the Charles Brasch Young Writers' Essay Competition as well as a *Starling* micro-residency as part of the New Zealand Young Writers Festival. The same year she was awarded a Prime Minister's Scholarship for Latin America to study Indigenous rights and histories in Brazil. Her work is included in *Rapture: An Anthology of Performance Poetry from Aotearoa New Zealand* (Auckland University Press, 2023) and appears in *Katūīvei* (2024), a new anthology of Pacific poetry published by Massey University Press.

Jimmy Ma 'ia 'i is an Auckland-based artist and researcher of Samoan and Scottish descent. Jimmy's creative practice explores mixed-heritage identity amongst Aotearoa's Pacific diaspora and the intersection of personal and social histories. Jimmy exhibited works recently as part of *Spring Time Is Heart-Break: Contemporary Art in Aotearoa* at Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetū (2023) and *Ocean of Whispers* at Enjoy Gallery (2022) in Wellington and has artworks in both public and private collections. His first solo show will be at Blue Oyster Art Project Space, Dunedin, in June 2024. He currently works as Pacific Collection Manager at Tāmaki Paenga Hira Auckland War Memorial Museum.

Huni Mancini is an archivist at the Archive of Māori and Pacific Sound, Waipapa Taumata Rau The University of Auckland. She is of Tongan and Italian heritage. Huni has a PGDip in information studies from Victoria University of Wellington Te Herenga Waka and an MA from the University of Auckland. Her thesis, titled "Mapping New Terrain: Self-Determined Indigenous App and Game Development", explored the use of interactive digital technology to preserve Indigenous cultural heritage and identity. Huni has published written work in Aotearoa New Zealand and Australia. Her recent work has featured in *Pacific Arts Aotearoa* (Penguin, 2023), *The Legacies Reader* (CIRCUIT, 2022), *The Pantograph Punch*, West Space (Melbourne), un Projects (Melbourne) and *Bulletin* (Christchurch Art Gallery).

Emily Parr (Ngāi Te Rangī, Moana, Pākehā) is an artist living in Tāmaki Makaurau (Auckland). Her moving-image practice stitches through time and space, exploring systems of relation emerging from Te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa. Emily's body of work on settler-Indigenous relationships traverses oceans and centuries, seeking stories in archives and waters on haerenga (journey) to her ancestral homelands. Her current doctoral project considers the responsibilities she has inherited through her ancestral legacies, in particular to her family's collection held by museums. Emily is part of the Vā Moana research cluster at Auckland University of Technology Te Wānanga Aronui o Tāmaki Makau Rau and is a research associate with Tāmaki Paenga Hira Auckland War Memorial Museum.

Pauline Reynolds is a Norfolk Islander of Pitcairn-Hitiaurevareva-Tahitian and English descent. A Pacific historian, literary scholar and creative writer, she is also known for her work with museums and curatorial teams around the world. Recently she published a chapter in *Tupaia, Captain Cook and the Voyage of the Endeavour* (Bloomsbury Visual Arts, 2023) and coedited *Postcolonial Literatures of Climate Change* (Brill, 2022). She is currently writing a biography titled *A Native Daughter of Pitcairn Island: The Life and Writings of Rosalind Amelia Young* (Brill, forthcoming).

Marama Salsano (Ngāi Tūhoe, Te Aitanga a Māhaki, Ngāti Porou, Ngāti Wairere) is a māmā, writer, ringatoi (artist) and PhD candidate at the International Institute of Modern Letters at Victoria University of Wellington Te Herenga Waka, New Zealand, where she works within the broad field of Māori and Indigenous literary studies. Marama's creative writing has been recognised in national fiction competitions and has been published in various anthologies and journals. In 2023 her fiction was longlisted for the Commonwealth Short Story Prize, and she was a finalist in the Pikihuia Awards for Māori writers. Her current visual work includes contemporary paintings of upoko whakairo (carved heads) on wood, fabric protest banners and object poetry.

Mere Taito (Rotuma (Fiji): Malha'a and Noa'tau) is a creative writer based in Kirikiriroa Hamilton in Aotearoa New Zealand. She is currently a PhD candidate at the University of Otago Te Whare Wānanga o Ōtākou exploring the impacts of reading Rotuman archival multilingual texts on the writing of multilingual poetry. Her study positions digitally authored multilingual poetry as an effective language-learning resource for Rotuman language regeneration in Aotearoa. Her creative work has been published widely in anthologies and journals such as *Bonsai* and *Best New Zealand Poems*. She is co-editor of the anthology *Katūivei: Contemporary Pasifika Poetry from Aotearoa New Zealand* (Massey University Press, 2024).

Cora-Allan Twiss is a multidisciplinary artist who actively regenerates Niue hiapo (barkcloth) practices by way of artwork, performance, installation and curation. Cora-Allan was awarded the Creative New Zealand Pacific Heritage Artist award (2020) and an Arts Foundation Springboard award (2021) and completed a McCahon House artist's residency in Waitākere (2021). She has been widely exhibited in Aotearoa and has showcased work in Canada, Niue, Australia, the USA and England.

Sonya Withers is an Aotearoa-born Pacific creative with gafa (ancestral links) to Scotland and Sama'i, Falelatai, Sāmoa. A senior design lecturer at Toi Rauwhānangi College of Creative Arts, Massey University Te Kunenga ki Pūrehuroa, she teaches across textile design studio projects and critical and contextual studies. Sonya has worked in fashion and on projects that have facilitated the presence and influence of Pacific peoples in museums and creative spaces.

