



BLUE:

Contemporary artists from Oceania

BENJAMIN AKUILA | MORGAN HOGG | MING RANGINUI
ASHLEIGH TAUPAKI | THI VAIHŪ | LUUK ZILICH

13 June – 11 July 2026

**8 WALL
GALLERY**

BLUE: CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS FROM OCEANIA

BENJAMIN AKUILA | MORGAN HOGG | MING RANGINUI
ASHLEIGH TAUPAKI | THI VAIHŪ | LUUK ZILICH

8 Wall Gallery is pleased to share our current group presentation, *Blue: Contemporary artists from Oceania*, featuring works by Benjamin Akuila, Morgan Hogg, Ming Ranginui, Ashleigh Taupaki, Thi Vaihū, and Luuk Zilich.

Blue: Contemporary artists from Oceania presents a new wave of Indigenous artists who reimagine traditional cultural practices in a contemporary setting. This group of Gen Z artists from the Islands across the Pacific Ocean/Moana - also known as the 'Blue Continent' - are a part of the next generation of makers reimagining traditional cultural practices in a contemporary setting.

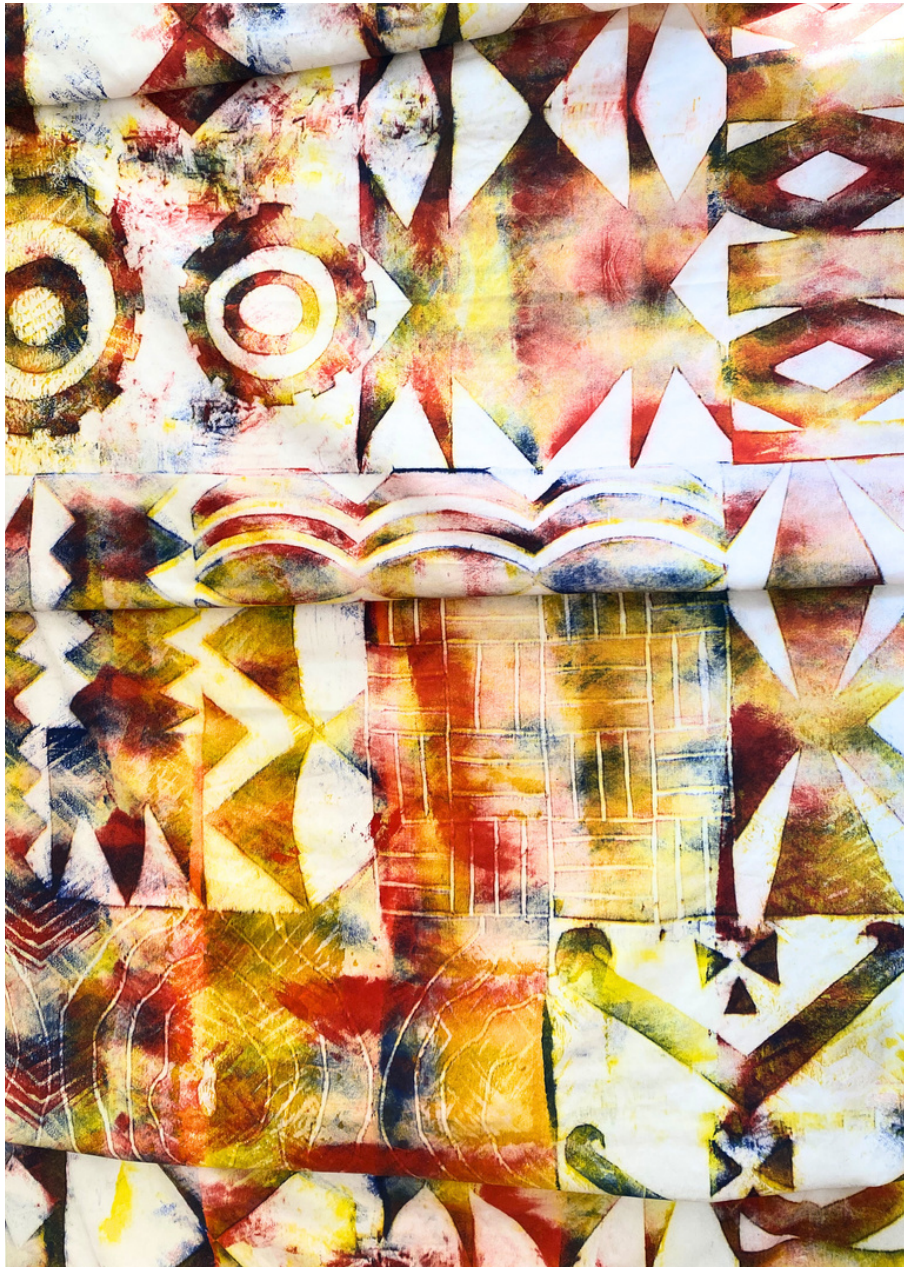
Three of the six included artists are based in Australia, and the other half in Aotearoa/New Zealand. Morgan Hogg's recent video work, commissioned by the Sydney Opera House for the Shortwave Program, is on display, with exquisite stills from the film available for the first time. For Luuk Zilich, *Blue: Contemporary art from Oceania* is his first group show outside of his alma mater, the National Art School, from where he graduated with a BFA in 2025. Thi Vaihū is debuting her aute (mulberry paper bark) practice in Australia, after spending the past 4 years honing her practice, learning from her kin and peers in the field such as from artist Atarangi Anderson.

Benjamin Akuila presents a stunning collection of ceramic pieces depicting various kato (bags) inspired by a visit to the Talamahu Market in Nuku'alofa in Tonga. Ming Ranginui's sculptural pieces offer a critique on the shared colonial histories of Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand. Through the close reading of legislative texts, Ashleigh Taupaki's cyanotype works-on-paper foreground the histories of control, erasure and translation that written and numerical systems carry.

These artists are bringing ancient techniques, knowledge, and cultural understanding to a contemporary audience. Together, this next generation of Indigenous artists are leading the path and reconnecting us through the blue. Curated by Sam Houben (Ngāti Kahu, Te Rarawa), the exhibition includes new works and recently commissioned installations, all of which are commercially available at 8 Wall Gallery.



Morgan Hogg
Silver Tongue, 2025
video
7 minutes 12 seconds
POA



Morgan Hogg

The last coconut drifted, 2025

printed fabric paint on cotton

dimensions variable

POA



Thi Vaihu

Kahu Aute: Te Kore, 2026

aute (paper mulberry bark), muka, tanekaha and paru traditional dyes, manioke starch

75 x 110 cm

\$4000



Ming Ranginui (Courtesy of Suite7a)

cake of origin, 2025

muka and glass beads

45 x 10 x 10 cm

\$4000



Ming Ranginui (Courtesy of Suite7a)

crown under, 2025

muka and glass beads

45 x 10 x 10 cm

\$4000



Ashleigh Taupaki (Courtesy of Plomacy)

Waihou and Ohinemuri Rivers Improvement Act 1910 (#8), 2026

cyanotype

29.5 x 20.5 cm

\$750NZD (sold, editions available)

POA



Luuk Zilich
Spirit, 2026
limestone
66 × 28 × 28 cm
\$2200



Luuk Zilich
Echo, 2026
limestone
22 x 28.5 x 29 cm
NFS



Benjamin Akuila

Katalogue (Falekoloa series), 2025, stoneware raku, black underglaze, clear finish,
21 x 14.8 cm (each)

L-R:

Ngatu XXII (\$425)

Ngatu XV (\$425)

Koloa I (\$375)

Mask II (\$375)

Ngatu XXV (\$400)

Ngatu I (\$375)

Ngatu VXXI (\$425)

Ngatu XII (\$300)

Ngatu XXXI (NFS)

Ngatu IX (\$350)

Koloa II (\$375)

Ngatu VII (\$375)



Benjamin Akuila

Katalogue (Falekoloa series), 2025, stoneware raku, black underglaze, clear finish,
21 x 14.8 cm (each)

L–R:

Ngatu III (\$375)

Ngatu XVI (\$425)

Mask IV (\$425)

Koloa IV (\$400)

Ngatu XIX (\$425)

Ngatu XXIX (\$350)

Ngatu X (\$350)

Ngatu XI (\$375)

Koloa III (\$375)

Ngatu V (\$375)

Ngatu XXXIV (NFS)

Ngatu XVII (\$425)



Benjamin Akuila

Katalogue (Falekoloa series), 2025, stoneware raku, black underglaze, clear finish,
21 x 14.8 cm (each)

L-R:

Ngatu XVIII (\$425)

Ngatu XX (\$425)

Ngatu XXX (\$350)

Ngatu IV (\$375)

Ngatu XXIV (\$400)

Koloa VII (\$425)

Ngatu XXVIII (\$375)



BENJAMIN AKUILA



MORGAN HOGG



MING RANGINUI



ASHLEIGH TAUPAKI



THI VAIHŪ



LUUK ZILICH

BENJAMIN AKUILA

EDUCATION

- 2024 Master of Fine Arts, National Art School, Sydney
2022 Bachelor of Fine Arts, National Art School, Sydney

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 *The Beast in Me*, Curatorial + Co, Woolloomooloo
Blue: Contemporary artists from Oceania, 8 Wall Gallery, Paddington, NSW
Spilt Milk (and hard honey), curated by Talia Smith, West Space, Collingwood, VIC
We are Surrounded by Oceans, Artbank, Waterloo
- 2025 *EMENATE: Recent National Art School Graduates*, New England Regional Art Museum, Armidale, NSW
- 2024 *The NAS Postgraduate Exhibition*, National Art School, Darlinghurst, NSW
Matariki Exhibition, Outloud, Bankstown, NSW
Inaugural Tiny Gallery Exhibition, Rosebury, NSW
Angel Currency – In all directions of time and space, The Bearded Tit, Redfern, NSW
Life and Land, Cement Fondu Shop Space, Paddington, NSW

AWARDS

- 2024 *Lift Off Award*, National Art School, Darlinghurst, NSW

COLLECTIONS

- 2026 Artbank Sydney Collection
2022 NAS Archives and Collections, Sydney

COMMISSIONS

- 2026 *Combs*, Suite7a, Haymarket, NSW
2025 *Revealing Dress*, Liverpool Powerhouse, Liverpool, NSW

PRESS

- 2026 ArtForum: Benjamin Akuila in conversation with Dr Yolunda Hickman, National Art School
We are Surrounded by Oceans, Salote Tawale in conversation with Benjamin Akuila, Artbank
- 2024 The Culture Guide: NAS Postgrad Show, FBI Radio
Artists shine at National Art School Grad Shows, Emily Riches, Art Collector Magazine
- 2023 The Journal of Australian Ceramics, Vol 62, No 2, July 2023

BIOGRAPHY

Benjamin Akuila (b. 2000) is a multidisciplinary artist of Tongan and Irish descent. Akuila's work explores ideas of cultural authenticity and identity performances within the Tongan-Australian diaspora through the material use of clay. Through investigating societal constructs of history, identity, and gender, Akuila utilises humour and heliaki (allusion) to subvert these preconceived notions.

MORGAN HOGG

EDUCATION

Master of Fine Arts, University of Sydney

Bachelor of Visual Arts (Honours) / Bachelor of Advanced Studies (Film Studies), University of Sydney

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2025 *The last coconut drifted*, Blacktown Art Centre, Gadigal/Sydney

2023 *Ariki Vaine*, Outerspace Gallery Window, Meanjin/Brisbane

2021 *Enua Mānea*, Firstdraft, Gadigal/Sydney

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2026 *National Photography Prize Finalist Exhibition*, MAMA, Albury, NSW [Upcoming]

Blue: Contemporary artists from Oceania, 8 Wall Gallery, Paddington, NSW

Blake Prize Finalist Exhibition, Liverpool Powerhouse, NSW

Death Talks, 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art, NSW

Harbour Visions: Sydney New Wave, Sydney Cinémathèque, AGNSW, NSW

2025 *Burwood Art Prize Finalist Exhibition*, Burwood Library, NSW

Matariki Exhibition, Bankstown Art Centre, NSW

2024 *Same/Same but different*, 3rd Bankstown Biennale, Bankstown Art Centre, NSW

Sculpture by the Sea, Bondi, NSW

Matariki Exhibition, Outloud, Bankstown [Online], NSW

Blake Prize Finalist Exhibition, Casula Powerhouse, NSW

2023 *Fauvette Loureiro Memorial Scholarship Exhibition*, SCA Gallery, NSW

NSW Visual Arts Fellowship (Emerging), Artspace, NSW

Burwood Art Prize Finalist Exhibition, Burwood Library, NSW

2022 *New Contemporaries*, University of Sydney, NSW

Collection with Suite7a, Suite7a, NSW

Hatched: National Graduate Show, PICA, Perth, WA

The only thing left is to leave, curated collaboration Firstdraft & Beirut Art Centre

2021 *New Contemporaries*, University of Sydney, NSW

Live Dreams: Ancestry, curated by Nisha Madhan, Liveworks Festival of Experimental Art, Performance Space [Online]

SELECTED PERFORMANCES

2025 *Avaiki II...continued past, Enua Hidden Beginnings*, Sydney Writers Festival, Parramatta Artist Studios, NSW

2023 *Avaiki II...continued past, Enua*, MCA Artbar, curated by JD Reformer, MCA, Sydney
Garden of Seven Stones, Collaboration with Paris Taia, Art After Hours, AGNSW

2022 *Ariki Vaine*, *The only thing left is to leave* live night, curated collaboration Firstdraft, Beirut Art Centre, Arab Theatre Studios & Art Month Sydney, Firstdraft, Sydney
Ariki Vaine, *Hatched: National Graduate Show*, PICA, Perth

Aere Mai (Come Back), *Live Dreams: Distance*, curated by Talia Smith, Vivid Ideas, Performance Space, Carriageworks, Sydney

Aere Mai, Moko Mai, *New Contemporaries*, University of Sydney

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, PRIZES

- 2025 Recipient, SCA Student Fauvette Loureiro Memorial Scholarship, University of Sydney
- 2024 Recipient, The Clitheroe Foundation Emerging Artists Membership,
Sculpture by the Sea
Finalist, The 68th Blake Prize, Casula Powerhouse
- 2023 Recipient, NSW Visual Arts Fellowship (Emerging), Artspace, Sydney
Finalist, Fauvette Loureiro Memorial Scholarship, University of Sydney
- 2022 Finalist, Schenberg Art Fellowship, PICA, Perth
- 2021 Recipient, The Jerome De Costa Degree Show Bursary, University of Sydney

COMMISSIONS

- 2025 *Silver Tongues*, short film commission, Shortwave, Sydney Opera House and
Blacktown Art Centre

SELECTED RESIDENCIES & WORKSHOPS

- 2025-27 Parramatta Artist Studio Resident, Rydalmere, NSW
- 2025-26 Director and Cultural Engagement for Rippling form the Vaka, Cook Islands & Tahiti
- 2024 Artist residency with Uncle Mike Tavioni, Gallery Tavioni and Tauranga, Avarua,
Cook Islands
- 2024-25 Parramatta Artist Studio Resident, Granville
- 2023 Performance Residency, Performance Space x Bundanon, Bundanon Trust
Sweet Incites Residency, AGNSW for World Pride, Sydney, NSW

BIOGRAPHY

Morgan Hogg (b. 2000) is a multidisciplinary artist and creative producer of Cook Island Māori (Ngāti Tāne), Tahitian, and English descent. Working across installation and performance, her practice explores cultural identity, displacement, and intergenerational knowledge through the lens of her Kūki Airani heritage.

MING RANGINUI

EDUCATION

2020 Bachelor of Fine Arts, Massey University, Wellington, Aotearoa NZ

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 *Home and Away*, Robert Heald Gallery, Wellington, Aotearoa NZ
2024 *Battle royale*, Season, Auckland, Aotearoa NZ
2023 *Angel numbers on the dash*, Object Space, Auckland, Aotearoa NZ
Wishlist, Robert Heald Gallery, Wellington, Aotearoa NZ
Late to the ball, Season, Auckland, Aotearoa NZ
2022 *Sleigh*, Robert Heald Gallery, Wellington, Aotearoa NZ
2021 *Learner lover*, Playstation Artist Run, Wellington, Aotearoa NZ

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 *Blue: Contemporary artists from Oceania*, 8 Wall Gallery, Sydney, Australia
2025 *Soft spot*, Te Uru Gallery, Auckland
The Brood, The Dowse, Wellington
2024 *Earth slant*, Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, Banff, Canada
Molly Morpeth Canaday Award, Whakatāne Museum, Whakatāne
Dole House, Treadler Gallery, Auckland
This is the house that Jack built, Artspace Aotearoa, Auckland
Nō Konei, Sarjeant Gallery, Whanganui
SCAPE SEASON, SCAPE Public Art, Christchurch
2023 *Kiingi Tuheitia Portraiture Award*, The New Zealand Portrait Gallery, Wellington
He tohu tēnā pea, Sarjeant Gallery, Whanganui
THE FIELD, Gertrude Contemporary, Melbourne, Australia
2022 *Matarau*, City Gallery Te Whare Toi, Wellington
Huritau, CAS, Whanganui
Wawata, Season Aotearoa, Auckland
2021 *The stories of five to ten people*, Engine Room, Wellington
Whanganui arts in review, Sarjeant Gallery, Whanganui
All is full of love, Broker Gallery, Queenstown
Bling Ring, Enjoy Contemporary, Wellington
Cruel Optimism, Artspace Aotearoa, Auckland
Root Route, Tent, Christchurch
Molly Morpeth Canaday Award, Whakatāne Museum, Whakatāne

AWARDS / RESIDENCIES

- 2025 Springboard Award for Visual Arts, The Arts Foundation Te Tumu Toi
Artist in Residence, Tylee Cottage, Sarjeant Gallery, Whanganui
2024 Early Career Artist in Residency, Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, Banff, Canada
Molly Morpeth Canaday Award, Runner Up
2023 Kiingi Tuheitia Portraiture Award, Runner Up
2022 Ngā manu Pīrere Recipient, Creative New Zealand

BIOGRAPHY

Ming Ranginui (b. 1998) (Te Ati Haunui-a-Pāpārangi) is multidisciplinary artist of Māori descent who works across installation and sculpture, often using traditional Māori weaving techniques incorporating whatu or tāniko, and works within themes of tino rangatiratanga (Māori sovereignty), spirituality, and survival.

ASHLEIGH TAUPAKI

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Fine Arts, Te Waka Tūhara – Elam School of Fine Arts and Design, Aotearoa New Zealand

Master of Fine Arts, University of Auckland, Aotearoa New Zealand

Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours), University of Auckland, Aotearoa New Zealand

EXHIBITIONS

2026 *Blue: Contemporary artists from Oceania*, 8 Wall Gallery, Gadigal/Sydney, Australia
Aotearoa Art Fair - Works on Paper with Plomacy, Auckland

Ropitini Kuruho, Plomacy, Auckland

2024 *This is the house that jack built*, Artspace Aotearoa, Auckland

2023 *All This Work Is Necessary*, Enjoy Contemporary Art Space, Wellington

Arapeta Hākura and Ashleigh Taupaki, He Wheke He Whai, Audio Foundation, Auckland

2021 *Tirohia*, Playstation Artist Run Space, Wellington

PRESS

Myth, Māori and Multidimensionality, the Art Paper, 2025

<https://plomacy.co.nz/2025/09/17/the-art-paper/>

Ashleigh Taupaki and Artspace Aotearoa Director Ruth Buchanan interviewed on 95bFM,
<https://95bfm.com/bcast/this-is-the-house-that-jack-built-w-artspace-aotearoa-director-ruth-buchanan-and-artist-ashleigh>

BIOGRAPHY

Ashleigh Taupaki (b. 1997, Tāmaki Makaurau) is a multidisciplinary artist based in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland working primarily in object, drawing, and research. Taupaki has recently completed a PhD at Te Waka Tūhura – Elam School of Fine Arts and Design. The artist has developed an expanded mind mapping practice that emphasises connectivities across historical, cultural, and linguistic ecologies. Her work investigates complex relationships between knowledge systems and cultural understanding through visual and conceptual frameworks.

THI VAIHŪ

EDUCATION

2020 Bachelor of Laws (Honours) and Arts (Film, Television and Media Studies), University of Auckland, NZ

EXHIBITIONS

2026 *Blue: Contemporary artists from Oceania*, 8 Wall Gallery, Paddington, NSW
Kahu Aute: Tāwhai - An Exploration of Whakapapa and Process, Moana Fresh, Auckland, NZ

BIOGRAPHY

Thi Vaihū (b. 1997) (Ngāpuhi, Ngati Whatua Ki Kaipara, Waikato Tainui, Tonga) is a kiriaute (Māori barkcloth practitioner). Vaihū grows, harvests and processes aute (mulberry paper bark) from Te Henga, Bethells Beach, New Zealand. Thi's practice is preoccupied with the re-remembering of traditional techniques of maintaining pa aute as well as the processing of aute, muka, paru dye and whenua pigments.

LUUK ZILICH

EDUCATION

2025 Bachelor of Fine Arts, National Art School, Gadigal/Sydney, Australia

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2026 *Blue: Contemporary artists from Oceania*, 8 Wall Gallery, Gadigal/Sydney

2025 *NAS Graduate Exhibition*, National Art School, Gadigal/Sydney

COMMISSIONS

2026 10x wedding centrepieces - carved sandstone with floral inserts

BIOGRAPHY

Luuk Zilich (b. 2003) is an emerging sculpture artist of Māori (Ngāti Pōneke) and Dutch heritage whose work explores materiality, memory, and identity. Through an intuitive carving process, patterns emerge subconsciously, often functioning as partial or unresolved self-portraits shaped by memory and instinct.

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**8 WALL
GALLERY**