



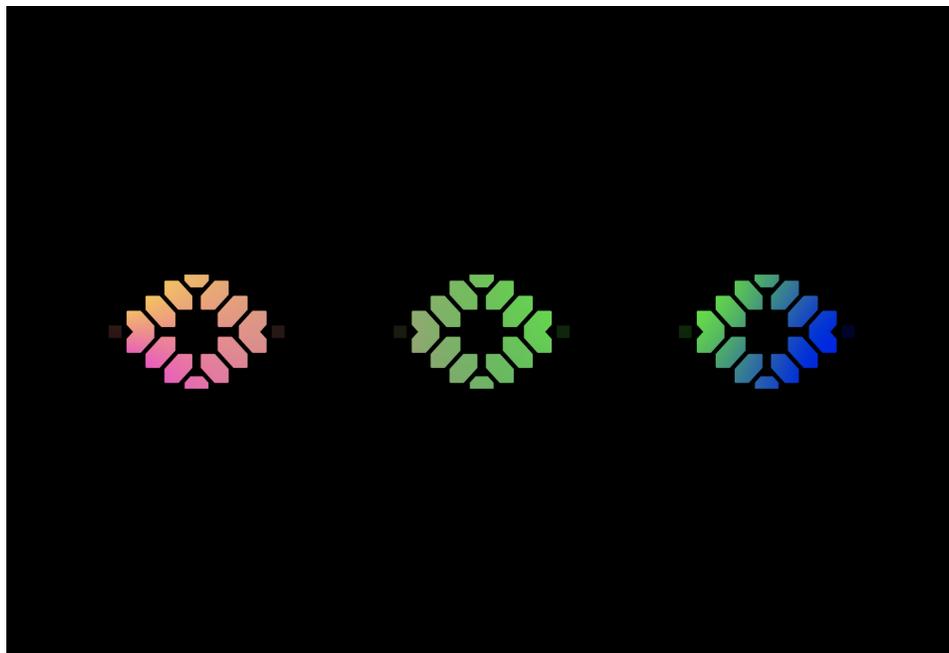
THE LIGHTSHIP

SIONE FALETAU LAUNCHES NEW WORK AT 'THE LIGHTSHIP'

03 November 2021

PRESS RELEASE

- The Lightship - in partnership with The University of Auckland, Elam School of Fine Arts - is pleased to present *Kupesi Sisi Huelo 'oe Taulanga Waitematā moe Funga Tāmaki Makaurau*, a new work by Doctoral student Sione Faletau.
- The commissioned site-specific artwork which will be displayed from 3 November - 14 December 2021.
- The Lightship is a 110-metre-long, 13-metre-high light wall that Ports of Auckland built into the western façade of their new car handling building. It can be viewed from Quay Street, city wharves, local buildings and the water.
- After a call for proposals was opened to the student body for an Elam Season, Sione's was one of two successful proposals selected for development into a work for public viewing on The Lightship.



Kupesi Sisi Huelo 'oe Taulanga Waitematā moe Funga Tāmaki Makaurau
The Garland of patterned Lights of the Waitematā Harbour and Auckland City.

Emitting its light onto the water and into the environment, *Kupesi Sisi Huelo 'oe Taulanga Waitematā moe Funga Tāmaki Makaurau* adorns The Lightship, harbour, and city. A sisi (garland) of light beams (huelo), this patterned adornment was created from and for the spaces of the port and its surroundings.

Sisi in the Tongan culture is an important type of garland. It consists of fresh, fragrant tropical flowers of different colours, neatly woven and plaited together in layers with the best (fungani) at the top and greenery at the bottom. Sisi are used to adorn distinguished guests and people of importance; are worn around the neck as a necklace or around the waist.

Kupesi is the Tongan word for patterns. Prominent in several Tongan artforms, kupesi are a form of adornment in themselves. They adorn the canvas of the ngatu (tapa cloth) and lalava (lashings, the technology of binding) and carvings. They tell of tradition, histories, places, and contexts. Ultimately kupesi is a medium that communicates the Tongan world view.

Kupesi Sisi Huelo 'oe Taulanga is both sisi and kupesi: a garland of patterns in light and colour; composed from sounds of the site it adorns.

Extracted audio wave spectrum from sounds recorded at the Ports of Auckland, the Waitematā Harbour and Auckland CBD provided the artist with high, medium and low frequencies. Generating visual patterns from this raw sonic material, the artist reimagines these spaces through the sense of listening. Then, in adorning them, encourages us to honour what is not easily perceived but provides these sites their inherent quality. *Kupesi Sisi Huelo 'oe Taulanga Waitematā moe Funga Tāmaki Makaurau* respect the culture, histories and living entities of our harbour and city, gracing and marking these elements.

The audio-video can be accessed [here](#).

//

About Sione Faletau

Sione is a multidisciplinary artist born in Auckland with Tongan heritage. He has links to the villages of Taunga, Vava'u and Lakepa, Tongatapu.

Utilizing art as a vehicle to explore his Tongan heritage has led him to undertake Doctoral research on Tongan masculinity from an Indigenous perspective. As of late, his interest has been in creating kupesi (patterns) from extracted audio waveforms from songs, audio recordings and field recordings of environments.

The audio waveforms give him a material that can be manipulated into kupesi. This innovative way of creating has opened a new language and a different way of seeing kupesi in the contemporary realm.

//

[Sione Faletau on YouTube](#)

[Sione Faletau on Instagram](#)

The Lightship, is a new site for contemporary art, which was launched by the Ports of Auckland in October 2020. The large-scale digital light wall on Quay Street provides Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland with a unique place for public art to be enjoyed.

The Lightship is a 110-metre-long, 13-metre-high light wall that wraps around the western façade of the port's new car handling building. It is made up of seven panels with nearly 8,500 individually programmable LED lights and is visible from busy Quay Street, city wharves, local buildings and the water.

The Lightship's inaugural commission was a new artwork by Janet Lilo entitled ISLOVE which was live from 8 October – 3 December, 2020.

This was followed by;

1. *Come Up For Air* by Sorawit Songsataya
10 December 2020 – 4 February, 2021
2. *Skylined* by Tyson Campbell
11 February – 8 April, 2021
3. *Broken Embraces* by Sione Tuívailala Monū
15 April – 17 June, 2021
4. *Pūtahitanga kura* by Abigail Aroha Jensen & Georgina Watson
17 June – 18 July, 2021
5. *Onepanea* by Natalie & Sam Tozer
22 July – 3 November, 2021

The site is programmed by curator Bridget Riggir-Cuddy, and sits near another significant public artwork, *The Lighthouse* by Michael Parekowhai on Queens Wharf – cementing the area as a destination for contemporary public art.

www.thelightship.co.nz

hello@thelightship.co.nz

IG [@the_light_ship](https://www.instagram.com/the_light_ship)

About the Car Handling Building

The car handling building was developed by Plus Architecture as part of Ports of Auckland's 30-year master plan. It is designed to reduce the space taken up by imported vehicles and better integrate Auckland's port into the surrounding community.

The car handling building is no ordinary 'car park'. It is a harbour-saving building, which removes the need to take more of the Waitematā harbour for reclamation by stacking cars vertically. On its southern wall, facing Quay Street, it has the world's largest soil-based vertical garden, which was created by local company Hanging Gardens.

The western wall, facing Queens Wharf, holds The Lightship and a public park is currently being designed for the roof, giving Aucklanders a beautiful new green space with outstanding views of the harbour, the central city and their port at work.

It is a remarkable building, weaving the functional and the aesthetic together to create a building that works both for the port and the city. There is nothing like it anywhere else on earth.

ENDS

For further information contact:

Matt Ball
GM PR & Communications
M: +64 21 495 645
E: ballm@poal.co.nz