



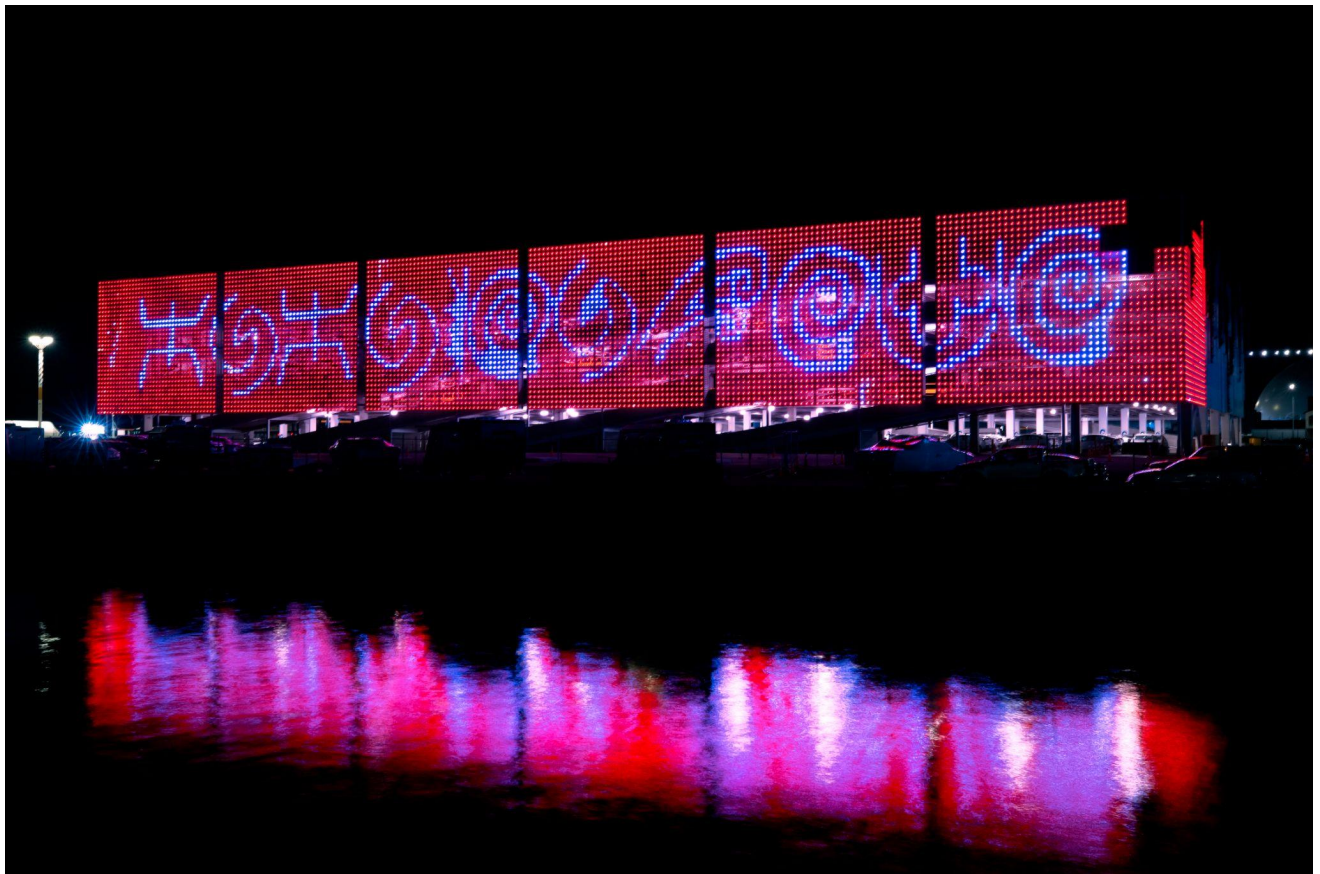
# THE LIGHTSHIP

ESSA MAY RANAPIRI LAUNCHES  
NEW WORK ON 'THE LIGHTSHIP'

*22 June, 2022*

PRESS RELEASE

- The Lightship is pleased to present *Hinemoana & Papatūānuku*, a new work by *essa may ranapiri*.
- The commissioned site-specific artwork which will be displayed from 22 June - 17 July, 2022.
- The piece tells a story of the formative and sustaining relationship between earth and ocean - *atua*.



## *Hinemoana & Papatūānuku*

They push on each other.

The rising waters of Hinemoana, seek to embrace Papatūānuku.

They are in conversation. We move with their negotiation, between land and sea.

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*Hinemoana & Papatūānuku* tells of the formative and sustaining relationship between earth and ocean – atua.

Elizabeth Kerekere's poem *Hinemoana* describes a relationship of sensuality between Hinemoana and Papatūānuku: the dynamic between soft and hard; 'from the caress of her gentle breakers / to the crash of her deep seas'.

Written, painted, and spoken at a point of their meeting, the artist gives shape to the deep identity of place: environmental expression honored in the careful drawing of the symbolic.

Language defines and limits the world we put it to. Ocean and Earth. Hinemoana and Papatūānuku. Words resist and reinstate.

Here, the artist uses Matahi Whakataka-Brightwell's *A Māori Alphabet* to name. The kupu Hinemoana and Papatūānuku are written in an alphabet that has its birth on the seas, created by Whakataka-Brightwell in the 80s. The Māori alphabet for their names is used to speak to their mana and their tapu nature.

What is contained within and invoked by these symbols and shapes? We need not become literate in this language, but put it to our bodies and surrounding environment. The language guides us to tongue its shapes and seek its expression in the world we see. It asks us to way-find meaning through and between body and place.

## About essa may ranapiri

(they/ia | Ngāti Wehi Wehi, Ngāti Raukawa, Te Arawa, Waikato-Tainui, Ngāti Pukeko, Ngāti Takatāpui, Clan Gunn)

essa is a poet/artist who lives on Ngāti Wairere whenua.

They have a great love for language, LAND BACK and hot chips.

Their first book of poetry, *ransack*, was published in 2019.

*ECHIDNA* is their second book.

Primarily a poet, they also dabble in visual arts, evidently.

What were mediums to our ancestors?

## About The Lightship

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*: Sorawit Songsataya  
10 December, 2020 – 4 February, 2021
2. *Skylined*: Tyson Campbell  
11 February – 8 April, 2021
3. *Broken Embraces*: Sione Tuívailala Monū  
15 April – 16 June, 2021
4. *Pūtahitanga kura*: Abigail Aroha Jensen & Georgina Watson  
17 June – 18 July, 2021
5. *Onepanea*: Natalie & Sam Tozer  
22 July – 2 November, 2021
6. *Kupesi Sisi Huelo 'oe Taulanga Waitematā moe Funga*  
Tāmaki Makaurau: Sione Faletau  
3 November – 13 December, 2021
7. *Whakakiwi*: SINŌ  
14 December, 2021 – 2 February, 2022
8. *EVERYTHING*: Fiona Jack  
9 February – 30 March, 2022
9. *Broken Sovereignty*: Parasite  
6 April – 16 June, 2022

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](http://www.thelightship.co.nz)

[hello@thelightship.co.nz](mailto: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.

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