



THE LIGHTSHIP

SEAN KERR LAUNCHES
NEW WORK ON 'THE LIGHTSHIP'

25 August, 2022

PRESS RELEASE

- The Lightship is pleased to present *A Random Rant*, a new work by Sean Kerr.
- The commissioned site-specific artwork which will be displayed from 03 September – 15 November, 2022.
- The piece offers a sly commentary on the absurdities that arise when the sterile world of technology encounters the teeming chaos of the everyday.

(π ^ π) collective exist

computer acting struggle

theory parallel lit

achoo 9(□L□9)≡

walk acting squish

A Random Rant

In *A Random Rant*, Sean Kerr randomly selects snippets of bold text, which pops into view in rapid-fire succession, a bewildering stream-of-consciousness, barrage of buzzwords, chatty comments, and '90s-style emojis.

Like much of Kerr's work, *A Random Rant*'s vocabulary is familiar staples of recent discourse, both public and private, while others are non-sequiturs (achoo, squish, arrrt) and some are merely banal (shoes, tie, dog).

This cavalcade of linguistic data-points, flicking onto *The Lightship* with the relentless pace of an excited teenager's instant messages, serves ultimately not to construct a conversation or serve an ideology, but to undermine the premise of communication itself.

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Kerr's work underlines the phenomenon whereby an overabundance of information, endlessly repeated and reformulated, ultimately starts to take on only the ephemeral meanings that the viewer projects onto it.

About Sean Kerr

Sean Kerr lives and works in Auckland, New Zealand, where he is a Senior Lecturer at Elam School of Fine Arts, University of Auckland. He is the Programme Leader for the Fine Arts Doctoral Programmes, specialises in Real-time 3d, VR and interactive technologies, and has produced two books; 'Bruce is in the garden, so someone is in the garden', and 'Pop'. Both were published by Clouds publishing.

Selected exhibitions include: *In Kahoots*, Real-time 3d Installation, in collaboration with Judy Darragh, Christchurch Art Gallery, 2020-2021; *What's it Doing?*, Mixed media, Auckland Art Gallery, Toi o Tamaki, 2013-2014; *Song and Dance*, The Physics Room, Christchurch, 2012; *Super music*, Superdeluxe, Tokyo, 2011; *Run Artist Run*, 55 Sydenham, Sydney; *Donkey Pong*, I.C.A.N. Sydney, 2011; *Bruce danced if Victoria sang, and Victoria sang; so Bruce danced, part II*, The Dowse Art Museum, Lower Hutt, 2011; *Bruce danced if Victoria sang, and Victoria sang; so Bruce danced, part I*, Artspace and Gus Fisher Gallery, Auckland, 2010; *CMC*, Superdeluxe, Sydney Biennale, Sydney, 2010; *Ping Pong Pop*, Electrosmog, Debalie, Amsterdam, 2010; *Friends Reunited Part 3*, Mirror States, Campbelltown Public Art Gallery, Sydney, 2008; *Music 4 4 Blackberrys*, Gus Fisher Gallery, Auckland, 2007; *Neigh-bourhood Watch*, SCAPE, Christchurch, 2006; *Music 4 100 Computers*, Rhizome.org Commission, New York, 2006; *The Mountain*, Prospect 2004, Wellington, 2004; *The Conversation*, Seoul Biennale, Seoul, 2002; and *The Binney Project*, Te Papa Tongarewa, Museum of New Zealand, 2002.

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
10. *Hinemoana & Papatūānuku*: essa may ranapiri
22 June – 8 August, 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.

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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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