



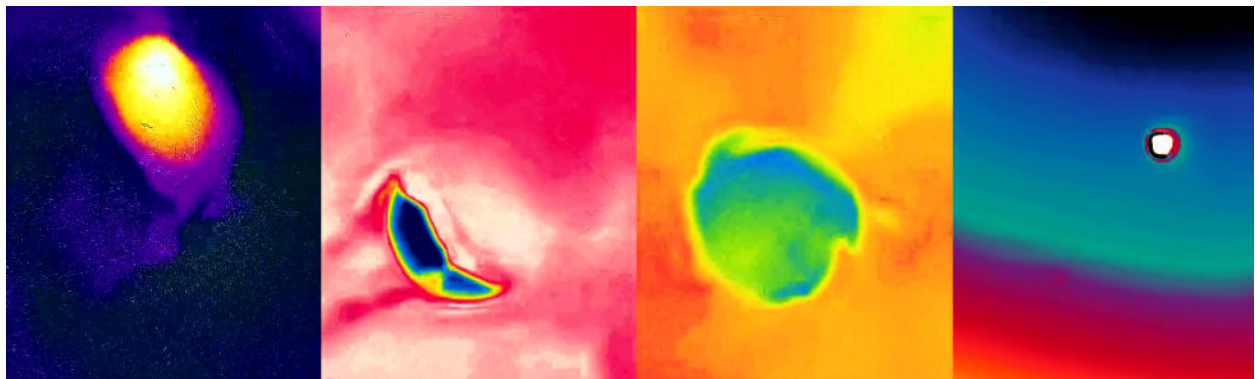
# THE LIGHTSHIP

ANDREW BECK LAUNCHES  
NEW WORK ON 'THE LIGHTSHIP'

*23 February, 2023*

PRESS RELEASE

- The Lightship is pleased to present *Emma's Rain*, a new work by Andrew Beck.
- The commissioned site-specific artwork which will be displayed from 1 March - 29 June, 2023.
- The piece, *Emma's Rain*, goes on a voyage across a landscape of colour, by turns nostalgic, eerie and meditative.



## Emma's Rain

In *Emma's Rain*, Andrew Beck brings the themes and ideas that permeate his photogram and installation practice to the macro-scale video format of *The Lightship*. As is the case in his previous works, Beck is interested in the places where binaries and opposites begin to break down. Previously, Beck has produced expansive bodies of work that use the analogue techniques of photogram-making and photo-collage to create digital-seeming images.

In *Emma's Rain*, footage shot using a thermal-imaging camera is cropped and manipulated to produce a mirage-like terrain of shifting colour and flowing, organic shapes. In both instances, the potential of the photographic process to create a facsimile of life has been sidelined. Rather than eliding itself into invisibility by offering a simulacrum that the viewer may mistake for an unfiltered view of the natural world, Beck's photography places its artifice front and centre, being as much about the process as the result.

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*Emma's Rain* goes on a voyage across a landscape of colour, by turns nostalgic, eerie and meditative. Blue fields are punctuated, or perhaps punctured, by flares of orange and yellow light, only to dissipate further into billowing green mist. Elements of the video imply rippling raindrops in puddles, sunsets or other natural phenomena, but the work ultimately refuses to resolve itself into a representational frame. Reflecting off the water and surrounding buildings, the shifting colours dissolve the solidity of the screen and the architecture surrounding it, creating a contemplative, liminal zone amidst the hard edges and straight lines of the city.

## **About Andrew Beck**

Andrew Beck lives in Wellington, New Zealand. Exhibition highlights include major exhibitions such as Emanations: The Art of Cameraless Photography (curated by Geoffrey Batchen), Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, The Devil's Blind Spot, Christchurch Art Gallery and The Specious Present (curated by Tina Barton), Adam Art Gallery, Wellington and Trace of Existence (curated by Philip Tinari), UCCA Beijing.

Beck continues to exhibit widely in New Zealand and overseas and his works are held in major public and private collections both nationally and internationally. In November 2019 he was awarded an artist-in-residence at the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation in Captiva, Florida.

## 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
11. *A Random Rant*: Sean Kerr  
September 3 - 15 November, 2022
12. *'Chlorophyll (Port of First Arrival)*: Sonya Lacey  
16 November - 21 February, 2023

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)

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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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