



THE LIGHTSHIP

TURUMEKE HARRINGTON LAUNCHES
NEW WORK ON 'THE LIGHTSHIP'

17 July, 2023

PRESS RELEASE

- The Lightship is pleased to present *Heavy Frame (WAIRUA)*, a new work by Turumeke Harrington (Kāi Tahu, Rangitāne)
- The commissioned site-specific artwork which will be displayed from 14 July - 11 October 2023.
- In the piece, the pictorial elements of the work reference bones, while also playfully invoking the co-opting of traditional kōwhaiwhai and whakairo iconography.



Heavy Frame (WAIRUA)

Turumeke Harrington (Kāi Tahu, Rangitāne) creates work that is grounded in her industrial design background, but reflects her interest in whakapapa and a bold, often mischievous approach to colour. In Heavy Frame (WAIRUA), the pictorial elements of the work reference bones, while also playfully invoking the co-opting of traditional kōwhaiwhai and whakairo iconography by logo designers and corporate interests.

The work's text content, which reads "YOUR BONES ARE STRONG LIKE MINE :)", suggests connectivity or reciprocity. Being installed on Matariki, a time to remember and pay respect to those who have passed away, this work also has a monumental or tributary quality. As the two-part title suggests, the work juxtaposes the solidity of bones-as-memento-mori with the idea of a soul or quintessence that outlasts the physical form, playfully inserting itself into commonplace narratives about death, dying and the afterlife.

The earth, too, has "strong bones," in the guise of Papatūānuku, whose physicality underlies, enfolds and supports human endeavours such as the high-rise buildings of downtown Auckland, where The Lightship is located. The ochres, yellows and reds of Heavy Frame (WAIRUA) seem to reflect the clay, soil and stone of the isthmus itself.

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In previous works, Harrington has invoked the phrase "ki tua o te ārai," a euphemistic reference to death meaning "beyond the veil" to refer to dawn and dusk, as liminal times when boundaries (like that between the living and the dead) are thin and permeable. Turning on at dusk and off again when the sun rises, The Lightship acts here as a vessel to traverse the night, linking past to future, ancestors to children, and bones to bones.

About Turumeke Harrington (Kāi Tahu, Rangitāne)

Turumeke Harrington is a Wellington based artist who works across sculpture and installation. Her practice is characterised by bold colours and references to domestic forms and materials. Sitting somewhere between art and design she is interested in exploring how objects, material and colour can subvert, challenge and express mātauranga Māori.

Harrington holds bachelor's degrees in Industrial Design from Victoria University and Fine Arts from Canterbury University. In early 2022, she received a Master of Fine Arts (Distinction) at Massey University and has recently exhibited at Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna O Waiwhetu, Pātaka Art + Museum, Adam Art Gallery Te Pātaka Toi, Enjoy Contemporary Art Space, Toi Pōneke, RM Gallery and Objectspace.

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 went live from 8 October, 2020.

This was followed by;

1. *Come Up For Air*: Sorawit Songsataya
2. *Skylined*: Tyson Campbell
3. *Broken Embraces*: Sione Tuívailala Monū
4. *Pūtahitanga kura*: Abigail Aroha Jensen & Georgina Watson
5. *Onepanea*: Natalie & Sam Tozer
6. *Kupesi Sisi Huelo 'oe Taulanga Waitematā moe Funga*
Tāmaki Makaurau: Sione Faletau
7. *Whakakiwi*: SINŌ
8. *EVERYTHING*: Fiona Jack
9. *Broken Sovereignty*: Parasite
10. *Emma's Rain*: Andrew Beck

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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