



THE LIGHTSHIP

JOHN WARD KNOX

NEW WORK ON 'THE LIGHTSHIP'

14 Jan - Feb 20, 2026

PRESS RELEASE

- TheLightship is pleased to present *Fathom, Furlong, League* - a new piece by John Ward Knox.
- The commissioned site-specific artwork will be displayed from 14 January - 20 February 2026.
- In the context of an environment that never sleeps, Knox's work is an invitation to slow down. Using prompts such as breath, a nature documentary and a horizon, the works lulls us into taking a moment.



Fathom, Furlong, League

John Ward Knox presents a single, simple scene, lit and featuring an incandescent horizon. The work's content emerges quietly through incidental detail. A lamp reflects in the glowing screen of a laptop playing a nature documentary, its light waxing and waning with the subject's breath. It is an invitation to slowness.

About John Ward Knox

Born 1984, Auckland - John Ward Knox is a New Zealand artist known for his conceptually rich and delicately executed works that blur the boundaries between painting and sculpture. A graduate of Elam School of Fine Arts, Knox creates finely detailed black oil paintings on silk, often layered and suspended to reveal shifting imagery and spatial depth. His sculptural works, crafted from materials such as wood, bone, metal, and found objects, emphasise tactility, transparency, and temporal slowness. Knox's practice is marked by poetic restraint and a deep sensitivity to materials, inviting meditative engagement and quiet reflection. He has exhibited widely in solo and group exhibitions across Aotearoa and Australia, and his work is held in major public collections. Awards such as the National Drawing Award and the Frances Hodgkins Fellowship have recognised his significant contribution to contemporary art in New Zealand.

About The Lightship

The Lightship, is a space for contemporary art, launched by Port 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 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
 - . Skylined: Tyson Campbell
 - . Broken Embraces: Sione Tuívailala Monū
4. Pūtahitanga kura: Abigail Aroha Jensen & Georgina Watson
 - . Onepanea: Natalie & Sam Tozer
 - . Kupesi Sisi Huelo 'oe Taulanga Waitematā moe Funga Tāmaki Makaurau: Sione Faletau
 - . Whakakiwi: SINŌ
8. EVERYTHING: Fiona Jack
9. Broken Sovereignty: Parasite
- 1 . Emma's Rain: Andrew Beck
11. Heavy Frame (wairua): Turumeke Harrington
- 1 . The Long White Cloud: Jae Hoon Lee
- 1 . Sky Sculpture: Andre Hemer
14. Frequency Colour: Clinton Watkins
- 1 . Slow Fever: Nicola Farquhar
- 1 . White Collar Eclipse: Oscar Perry
- 1 . Cut Line: Alex Chambers
18. Untitled: Esther Stewart
19. I Have No Body And I Must Move: Jess Johnson and Simon Ward

The site is programmed by curator Simon Bowerbank, 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

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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 Port 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.

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.

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