



THE LIGHTSHIP

NOVA PAUL

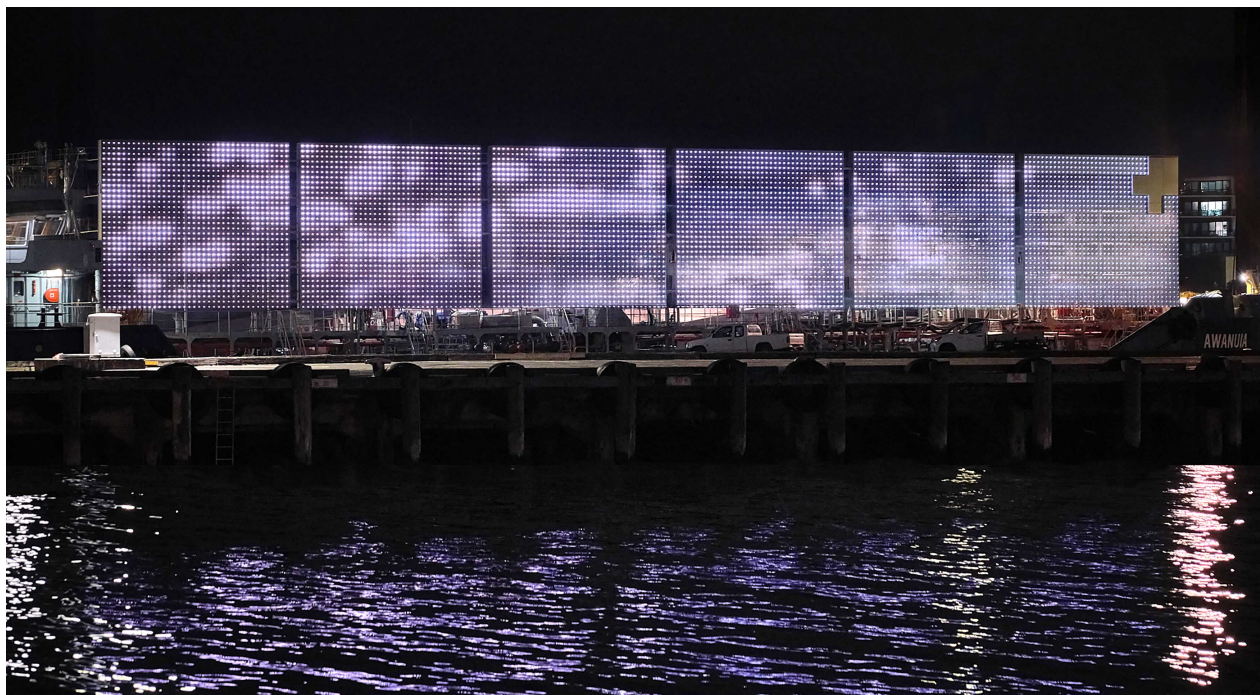
NEW WORK ON 'THELIGHTSHIP'

NEW SEASON - 'FIRST LIGHT'

17 Sep-31 Oct, 2026

PRESS RELEASE

- The Lightship enters a new season, with the curatorial framework, 'First Light,' which explores 'arrival' as a layered encounter between harbour and city, land and sea, mana whenua and manuhiri, expectation and experience.
- We are pleased to present 'Te Ata' by our first artist, Nova Paul.
- The work presents footage of water and a net shot on Aotea, Great Barrier Island shown beside, and reflecting on the Waitematā - connecting the site where the footage was made with histories of Kupe's voyaging and arrival.
- The commissioned site-specific work will be displayed from 17 September - 31 October



Te Ata

For Te Ata, Nova Paul presents footage of water and a net shot on Aotea Great Barrier Island shown beside, and reflecting on the Waitematā

The work grows from Paul's longstanding relationship with Aotea, a place that has remained important to her life and artistic practice. Paul connects the site where the footage was made with histories of Kupe's voyaging and arrival at Aotea. Seen from Auckland's waterfront, the image folds this ancestral history into the contemporary harbour, placing the movements of the present within a much longer history of passage across Te Moananui-a-Kiwa.

There is no fixed beginning or end, and no clear departure or arrival - a net drifts across the surface of the water, hovering between practical object and metaphor: something cast across space, holding and connecting the two bodies of water already joined by their intersecting histories of oceanic navigating and voyaging.

About Nova Paul

IWI

Te Uriroroi/Ngāpuhi/Māori Te Parawhau/Ngāpuhi/Māori Te Māhurehure ki Whatitiri/Ngāpuhi/Māori Ngāpuhi/Māori

Nova Paul (Te Uriroroi, Te Parawhau, Ngāpuhi) is an artist, filmmaker and researcher whose practice is grounded in kaupapa Māori approaches to image-making. Working particularly with analogue film, Paul explores relationships between whenua, whakapapa, language, time and the material processes through which images are formed. Her experimental films frequently treat the landscape and the natural world as active participants rather than passive subjects. In works such as Rākau, Paul has used plant matter gathered from pūriri trees to develop 16mm film depicting those same trees, creating a cyclical relationship between subject, material and image. Her work extends across filmmaking, publishing, teaching, curatorial practice and Indigenous research.

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.

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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
11. Heavy Frame (wairua): Turumeke Harrington
12. The Long White Cloud: Jae Hoon Lee
13. Sky Sculpture: Andre Hemer
14. Frequency Colour: Clinton Watkins
15. Slow Fever: Nicola Farquhar
16. Sky Sculpture: Andre Hemer
17. White Collar Eclipse: Oscar Perry
18. Cut Line: Alex Chambers
19. Untitled: Esther Stewart

20. I Have No Body and I Must Move: Jess Johnson and Simon Ward
21. Fathom, Furlong, League: John Ward Knox
22. Colour Function 3:30: Jack B Hadley
23. Ko au eni: Kalisolaite Uhali
24. Gates of Heaven: Tamsen Hopkinson

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
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 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. With this purpose maintained, the building is set for a transformation and additional function as Te Waharoa, Auckland's International Cruise Terminal. Construction is already underway and from early 2027, the Quay St elevation and ground floor of the building will become Te Waharoa. The new space is being delivered in collaboration with architects RCG, Ngati Whatua Orakei, Guadians and construction partner, Hawkins.

ENDS

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