Celebrating almost a decade of discourse, connection and advocacy

by

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A final message from the Board

After nearly ten years of commissioning new writing on Aotearoa artists' work being shown internationally, Contemporary HUM will stop publishing new pieces from October 2025, and the always popular Calendar section will cease to be updated. Our website will become something it has always been: a rich resource, an archive of incredible talent, writing and creative inquiry, but it will be finite, rather than perpetual.

In addition to publishing, the Contemporary HUM crew have been connecting, brokering, advising and supporting artists, curators, writers and collectors; both folk from Aotearoa heading into international realms, and international folk visiting Aotearoa. Much of this mahi is less visible and mostly unpaid.

Since our public funding decreased in 2023, we have been working incredibly hard behind the scenes, connecting with artists, writers and curators, re-evaluating our purpose and our business model, working with incredible supporters and stakeholders, undertaking great partnerships that brought revenue into the organisation and enabled mutual aims to be met. Our tiny team and voluntary board has been proactive, analytical, entrepreneurial and stubbornly optimistic. We wanted to uphold key aspects – free access to content, editorial independence, quality content where writers and editors are paid appropriately, covering projects in-depth and that were not being written about anywhere else, and generating new content (writing and podcasts).

We have looked at it from every angle, but cannot survive in our current form without a baseline of public funding. Our last four applications for Creative New Zealand organisational funding have not been successful, despite only positive feedback from assessors,

and the most kick-ass support letters from artists and other cultural producers, plus healthy engagement and uptake stats. Individual giving has helped enormously (individual donors and crowd funding alike). Paid partnerships have also been crucial. Sadly, we cannot continue to tread water. We know we are not alone in this time of struggle. Many respected friends and peers have needed to pause or shut up shop. Artists are struggling, yet their voices, visions and provocations are needed now as much as ever.

While this project comes to a close, our belief in the importance of international exchange and cross-cultural collaboration remains unwavering. As trustees, we are continuing to talk with and listen to the sector, about ways we can work together to nourish and support Aotearoa visual artists working internationally. The work is definitely not over, and while we hold deep respect for the sustained effort already undertaken by Aotearoa artists and cultural workers to establish, build and maintain these international peer relationships, the opportunity to advance this crucial conversation now rests with the wider sector.

This website will remain a comprehensive record of Aotearoa's creative talent active in the global arts landscape, free and available for all to access, and we look forward to what collaborations the future may hold.

Together with the HUM team, we are eternally grateful for your support and engagement.

Mā te wā,

Benjamin Work, Heather Galbraith, Hiraani Himona, Jude Chambers, Pauline Autet and Susan Hitchiner, Trustees of the Contemporary HUM Arts Trust

Navigating the Contemporary HUM archive

WRITING

Since 2016, we've commissioned over 180+ long-form publications, providing analysis and context often unavailable elsewhere.

Our commitment to quality, critical discussion is reflected in the HUM Writing Guidelines and Style Guide, a resource available for writers, editors and students, that offers guidance on spelling, formatting, referencing, and the use of subject matter relating to Māori artists, concepts, language and histories.

→ Browse our full archive of publications here
→ Access the HUM Writing Guidelines and Style Guide here

CALENDAR

The Contemporary HUM Calendar is a centralised record of Aotearoa's creative talent active on the world stage since 2016, featuring 1,100+ listings that you can filter by city, year and more.

→ View our international calendar listings here

PROJECTS

We've expanded the conversation on Aotearoa arts abroad through audio and special projects, releasing 9 podcast episodes with artists and curators, each published as a transcript with images.

→ Listen to *Crossing Currents: Aotearoa New Zealand Artists in Venice*
→ Listen to *Crossing Currents: Sarah Hudson's participation in the Naoshima Art Residency & Setouchi Triennale*

For Contemporary HUM's supporters, our team also produced 31 digital HUMcard mailouts, bringing exclusive, behind-the-scenes images and a personal text from Aotearoa arts practitioners directly to their inbox.

→ View all 31 original *HUMcard* PDFs here
→ Learn more about the *HUMcard* series on the project page

Moving beyond the digital space, Contemporary HUM also launched 13 partnerships and public events to cultivate debate and build lasting networks. This has included panel discussions in London and Berlin as well as our in-depth live coverage of major international art events.

→ For live coverage of the 57th, 58th, 59th and 60th Venice Biennale vernissages, visit this project page
→ For extended coverage of Sharjah Biennial 16, visit this project page
→ Explore all special projects and partnerships

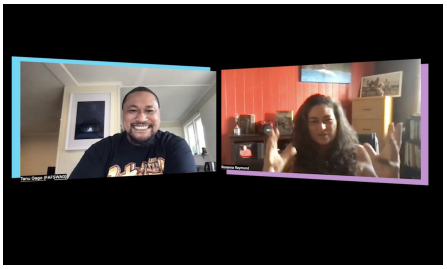
INDEX

With the launch of our custom-built website in 2021, we introduced unique navigational tools to make our large archive easily accessible. This includes an index of 600+ arts practitioners active across 350+ locations, alongside 190+ contributing writers and editors.

→ Browse Contemporary HUM by artist, contributor, location or topic



Interviewing Caitlin Devoy, Venice, 2024. Photo: Contemporary HUM.



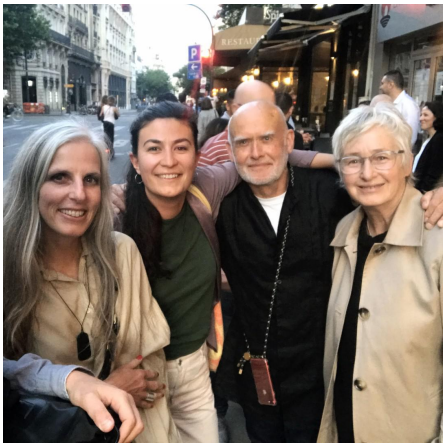
Forever Fresh Talanoa Series 2 partnership between In*ter*is*land Collective and Contemporary HUM. *Episode 1: BE(COM)ING GLOBAL* featuring Tanu Gago and Rosanna Raymond. Screenshot: Contemporary HUM.



Whose Oceania? panel discussion hosted by *Contemporary HUM*, London, 2018, with Matariki Williams, Lana Lopesi and Pauline Autet. Photo: Crystal Te Moananui-Squares.



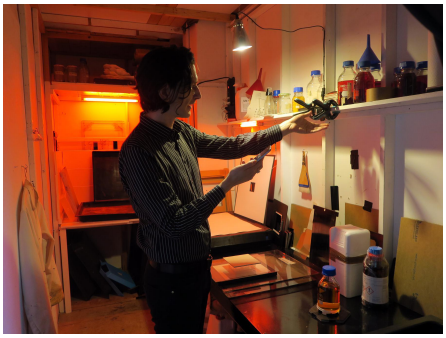
Contemporary HUM at VIENNA CONVERSATIONS, a three-day symposium hosted by Phileas: Austrian Office for Contemporary Art, Vienna, 11–13 June 2025. Photo: Kunst-Dokumentation.com / Manuel Carreon Lopez.



Catherine Griffiths, Pauline Autet, Bruce Connew, Tina Barton, Paris, 2023.



Audience members at *Whose Oceania?* panel discussion, London, 2018. Photo: Crystal Te Moananui-Squares.



Studio visit with Ben Cauchi, Berlin, 2021. Photo: Contemporary HUM.



Interviewing Yuki Kihara, Venice, 2022. Photo: Contemporary HUM.



On Civicness and participating in public life through art practice panel discussion hosted by Contemporary HUM, Berlin, 2021, with Pauline Autet, Cat Auburn, Daniel Malone and Ruth Buchanan. Photo: Stephanie O'Connor.



Claire Chamberlain, Pauline Autet and Brett Graham, Venice, 2024. Photo: Contemporary HUM.



Islands on Sale panel discussion hosted by Contemporary HUM in London, 2017, with Bridget Reweti, Erena Baker, Tessa Giblin, Alastair Carruthers, Pauline Autet and Winsome Wild. Photo: Crystal Te Moananui-Squares.



Contemporary HUM's first-ever editorial hui, 6 October 2022.



Open studio with James Tapsell-Kururangi at Delfina Foundation, London, 2023. Photo: Contemporary HUM.



Forever Fresh Talanoa Series 2 partnership between In*ter*is*land Collective and Contemporary HUM. *Episode 3: Shifting the Shape of Stories* featuring Skawennati, Michel Mulipola and Solomon Enos. Screenshot: Contemporary HUM.



Luke Willis Thompson and the crew of *Whakamoemoeā*, 2024, at Sharjah Biennial 16: to carry. Photo: Contemporary HUM.



Megan Tamati-Quennell and co-curators of *Sharjah Biennial 16: to carry*, Venice, 2024. Photo: Contemporary HUM.



Ruth Buchanan speaking at *On Civicness and participating in public life through art practice* panel discussion hosted by Contemporary HUM, Berlin, 2021. Photo: Stephanie O'Connor.



Simon Jean-Nebbache, James Webster, Catherine Griffiths, Chris Winwood, Hinemoa Jones, Pauline Autet and Bruce Connew, Paris, 2023. Photo: Contemporary HUM.



Interviewing Zara Stanhope, Venice, 2019. Photo: Contemporary HUM.

Words from our community

We are profoundly thankful to the community of artists, writers, curators, editors, advisors, donors, partners—and you—whose enthusiasm and support made our work possible.

"Contemporary HUM has been instrumental in connecting my work into a global network—I've experienced the team's generosity and willingness to make personal introductions to colleagues, as well as helping source excellent writers who were able to engage with my shows in Lyon and Budapest, which is testament to the depth of their networks."

- Dane Mitchell, artist, Naarm Melbourne and Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland

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"We are so grateful for how [*the publication*] *adds such an important layer to our work, and will be an enduring record of a show that has felt really positive and important for us."*

- Amanda Fauteux and Miranda Bellamy, artists, Ōtepoti Dunedin and Mi'kma'ki territory Sackville, New Brunswick

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"There is such a dearth of [*critical writing*] *in our region and Contemporary HUM holds an important place because of this encouragement. The rigour and attention to detail with which* [*my*] *piece was edited was very special and a privilege to experience as a writer."*

- Emma O'Neill, writer, Sydney Gadigal Lands

"It's necessary to have art written about in ways that extend the reasons why artists make it in the first place. The time, effort, energy

and care I've witnessed [*at Contemporary HUM*] *is an amazing asset and contribution to arts and culture."*

- Jack Gray, artist, choreographer, dancer and educator, Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland

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"[*Contemporary HUM's*] *commissions create solid documentation for the art history of Aotearoa happening internationally. We have no other platform doing quite what HUM does on the world stage."*

- Nathan Pōhio, artist and curator, Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland

"Contemporary HUM's network infrastructure creates depth and meaning to [*art*] *experiences, often exceeding our expectations and hopes for the public reach of art and its possible talking points. There are all these tiny grains of brilliance coalescing online in the HUM archive, which make up a vibrant and—critically, I feel—vocal image of the arts in Aotearoa."*

- Richard Frater, artist, Berlin

"The tradition of western arts criticism can often feel like a colonial exercise, where the complexity of our work can be decontextualised and rinsed through a filter of abstraction and misinterpretation. Contemporary HUM offers an independent voice within the international arts market, as an organisation with a competent grasp on the sophisticated context."

- Tanu Gago MNZM, artist, Maungarei Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland

"It's rare, especially in performance, to have such in-depth engagement with the work. As an artist it makes you feel incredibly respected, seen and appreciated."

- Amit Noy, writer and choreographer, Marseille and Te Whanganui-a-Tara Wellington



Most visited: *The Near Side: Artists from Aotearoa at NIRIN* by Jon Bywater, published 13 May 2020. On Emily Karaka, Elisapeta Heta & John Miller, Lisa Reihana, Kulimoe'anga 'Stone' Maka and FAFSWAG in the 22nd Biennale of Sydney, Australia. Image courtesy of Emily Karaka.



Most visited: *Reading Artists' Books with Interjections from a Daphne on Pete's Front Step* by Hamish Petersen, published 21 February 2023. On artists' books by Alexa Wilson, Kate Newby and Tim Veling. Image courtesy Tim Veling and XYZ Books.



Most visited: *Ngā Huarere o Te Moana Nui a Kiwa: Pacific Weathers* by Melody Nixon, published 1 August 2023. On the World Weather Network project and online works by Kalisolaite 'Uhila, Denise Batchelor, Maureen Lander, The Breath of Weather Collective, Janine Randerson, Ron Bull, Rachel Shearer, Stefan Marks and Heather Purdie. Image courtesy of Breath of Weather Collective & Phil Dadson.



Most visited: *An interview with Yuki Kihara*, by Contemporary HUM, published 24 May 2022. On Kihara's exhibition *Paradise Camp* in The 59th International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia, Italy. Image by Luke Walker, courtesy of the artist and New Zealand at Venice.



Most visited: *OCEANIA NOW: Contemporary Art from the Pacific*, media partnership between Christie's, Paris and Contemporary HUM, running February—March 2022. Exhibition and online sale produced with Alison Bartley and John Gow, featuring works by Shane Cotton, Brett Graham, Lyonel Grant, Nikau Hindin, Yuki Kihara, Roger Mortimer, Fiona Pardington, John Pule, Lisa Reihana, Mahiriki Tangaroa, Kelcy Taratoa, John Walsh, Dame Robin White and Cora-Allan. Image by Contemporary HUM.



Most visited: *Settling troubled waters with Emma McIntyre* by Megan Macnaughton, published 23 February 2022. On McIntyre's exhibition *Up bubbles her amorous breath* at Air de Paris, France. Image by Contemporary HUM.



Most visited: *Making Art in the time of COVID-19* by Chloe Lane, published 28 May 2020. On Amy Howden-Chapman and Emma McIntyre making art in the U.S.A. Image courtesy of Amy Howden-Chapman.



Most visited: *Crossing Currents: Aotearoa New Zealand Artists in Venice* podcast series, released June–August 2024. On Areez Katki, Brett Graham, Caitlin Devoy, Sandy Adsett, Elisapeta Hinemoa Heta, Fred Graham, Mataaho Collective and Robert Jahnke in the 60th Venice Biennale and parallel events, Italy. Image by Emma Kaniuk.



Most visited: *Situated practices* by Kathryn Weir and Zhang Hanlu, published 7 March 2020. On Lisa Reihana and Nandita Kumar in *Cosmopolis #2* at Centre Pompidou, France. Image courtesy of Lisa Reihana and Artprojects, Auckland.



Most visited: *HUM live from the 2024 Venice Biennale*, published 16–21 April 2024. Live coverage, exclusive images and videos of Aotearoa New Zealand artists and others in *Stranieri Ovunque – Foreigners Everywhere*, The 60th International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia, Italy. Image by Contemporary HUM.

Biographies