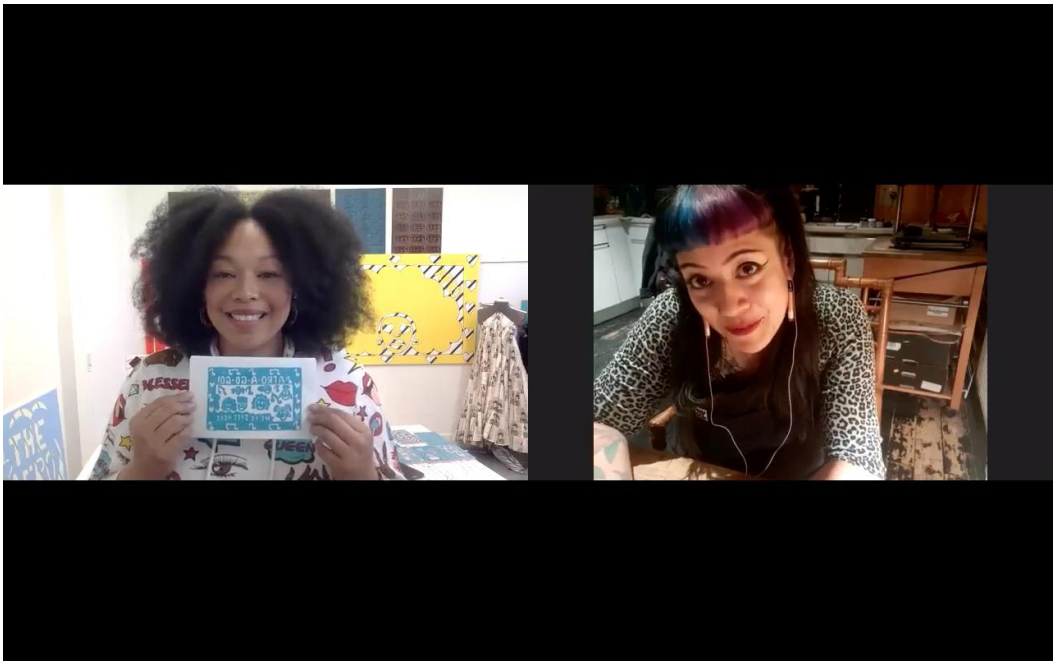
Forever Fresh Talanoa Series

Episode Tasi/One: Roots & Routes (Diaspora Life)

by Afatasi The Artist, Anne-Marie Te Whiu, Momoe i manu ae ala atea'e Tasker

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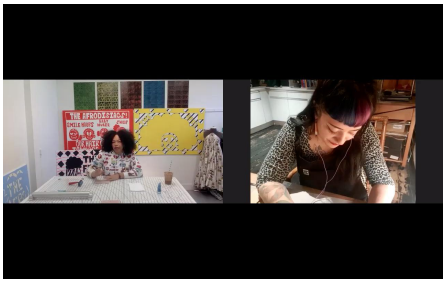


Episode Tasi/One of our Talanoa Series features Afatasi the Artist (ADOS-Sāmoan) based in San Francisco, USA, and Momoe i manu ae ala atea'e Tasker (English/Samoan-Chinese) based in London, UK. Recorded over Zoom, they take us on a journey through their lives growing up as "islanders" on other islands, what it's like to visit their cousins in Aotearoa/New Zealand, exploring their identity in their art practices and the joys (and pains) of having a Samoan mum. We get to watch their talanoa ebb and flow as they also create a piece of work, across the moana together.

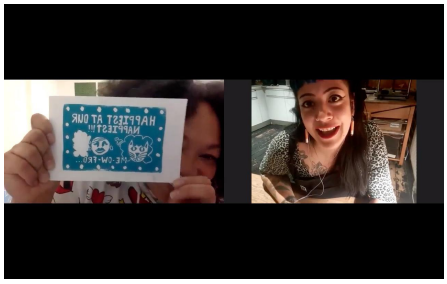
Click here to watch this first episode of the Talanoa series, and continue reading below for Anne-Marie Te Whiu's response to the video.



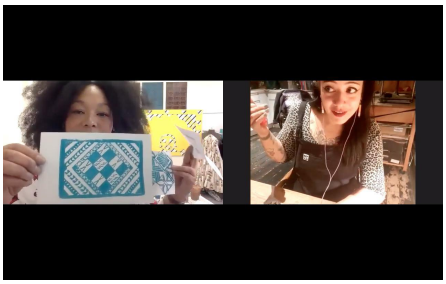
Forever Fresh Talanoa Series, Episode Tasi/ One, 2021. Image courtesy Jessica Palalagi/ In*ter*is*land Collective.



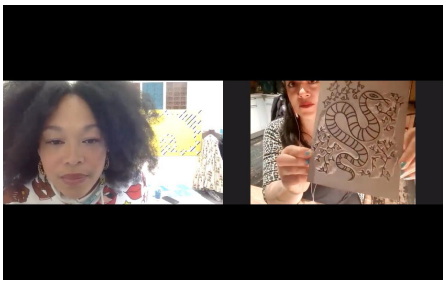
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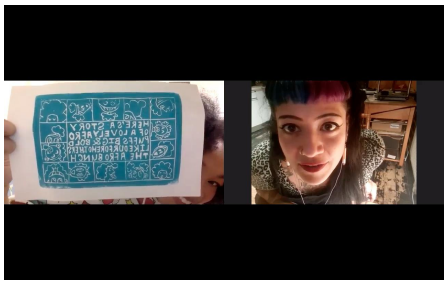
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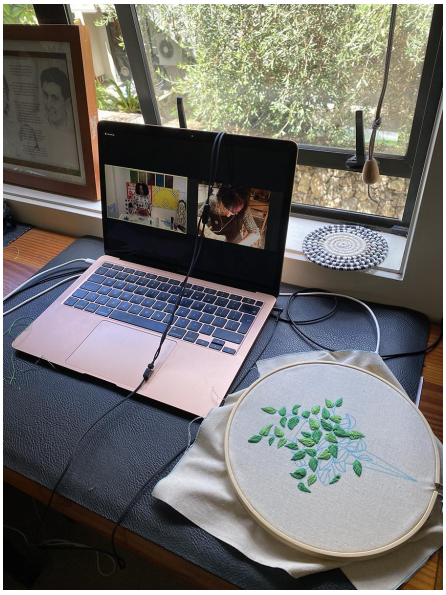
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Forever Fresh Talanoa Series, Episode Tasi/ One, 2021. Image courtesy Jessica Palalagi.

for•te

my tattoos and
half sunset fringe
open lined eyes
drumkit lips
draw you to my
red velvet throne
all our whanau
have that same
laughter crink
in our nose
we sing before
we fight
we love before
we run
we never lock
the front door

straight in the heart
of stories told
from the head of a table
like my Māmā did
and her Māmā before
sip slowly sip good
it stays chilled
hoodie cups my hair
my hands are a chorus
guiding us forward
take your time
slay blessed queen
smile hoops swoop
tell me
what are we made of?

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found + fiction

samoan

chinese
new zealand
taitoko
london
san francisco
california
western samoa
ADoS
wood block printer
textiles
sewing
lino
vinyl
gong hei fat choy
the yang of the water ox
the blues and greens of luck

my good sis
I feel fresh
you can
hear me fine
right?
let's start
with the
real stuff
shall
we?

little bit of pressure
little bit of pressure

Momoe

angerbunkingoffschoolcigarettesciderchildhoodwitnessingdomesticviolencesubtlecovertracismatschool

[Even though I'm Pasifika I'm also London. I'm both. It's possible to be both.]

Afatasi the Artist

survivalstardustivebeendoingsomehellamagicalshitandnobodyreal
lynoticescoconutsfriedchickenhelladifferentfood

[I’m an Islander but I’m definitely from the city.]

Our Mums

when our Mum’s met
they left us
no patience
they went straight to church
and sat near the aisle
they ate the bread of christ
with their hands out
amen

my Mum would invite your Mum over
to eat seafood at christmas time
they would eat mussels and lobsters
ocean people eating ocean food
it was a feast
with the leftover taro from the night before
Mum would slice it thin
and fry it up for breakfast

my Mum would invite your Mum
to bingo
there would be
a situation where our Mums
would bark out orders
we would know our Mums
we would know all the Mums

---

fresh font

garamond me good
shyness sleeps sweeps seeps
remember?
remember when -
in front of all of my friends absolute 100 rejection

swirling mirror ball
the carvings in the McDonalds at Mangere are crazy
I had a whole photoshoot there
between big macs and fries and a [white] cheese suprem[acy]
do you know Beyonce?
do you know The Spice Girls?
yeah man
I see them on the bus

here's a story of a lovely of a lovely Affrobunch
Marcia Marcia Marcia

okay blue eyeshadow
I see you blue eyeshadow

yes
yes side pony
ride on pony
show pony

I'm telling you
hair like mine is policed
I am the only one the one and only
Samoan Punk Singer
Singing Punk Samoan
I keep the beat
I am the beat
we beat
the beat
DYI disco realness

I'm a regular schmegular person just trying to get by
Black Babies have been dying at the hands of white doctors

medical racism
targeted in the birthing room

I'm tying the past
the present
and the future

I can never say goodbye

MIND YOUR BUSINESS
- PERIOD -

Biographies



Afatasi The Artist is an ADOS-Sāmoan, mixed-media conceptual artist and a native of San Francisco, California. Aesthetic themes of her artwork include both the Black and Sāmoan American experience, Afrofuturism, Afro-Pop art, and textile exploration. Her conceptual work, *BLACK SPACE*, is an ever-evolving Afro-futuristic exploration of the vastness of the global Black experience-from the cosmic to the quark, and every intersection in-between. Navigational mediums for this work include, mixed-media visual, audio, textile/fiber, music and photography.



Anne-Marie Te Whiu (Te Rarawa) is a poet, editor, cultural producer and weaver based on unceded Gadigal lands in Australia. She has edited works such as *Solid Air: Australian and New Zealand Spoken Word*, *Whisper Songs* by Tony Birch and *More Than These Bones* by Bebe Backhouse. She is dedicated to platforming the creative output of Indigenous peoples around the world and is especially interested in the rigour of the artistic collective. She was previously the Co-Director of the Queensland Poetry Festival and was a recipient of The Next Chapter Fellowship through The Wheeler Centre. Her writing has been widely published in journals, books, sites and magazines such as *Another Australia*, *Sport*, *Te Whe ki Tukorehe* Volume 1, *Cordite*, *Rabbit*, *Australian Poetry*, *Tupuranga*, *Debris*, *SBS*, *Running Dog*, *Ora Nui*, *In*ter*is*land Collective* and *Contemporary HUM*. She is an Associate Editor of *Contemporary HUM*.



Momoe i manu ae ala atea'e Tasker (English/Samoan-Chinese) is a multifaceted punk artist. Born in Taitoko/Levin, raised in London, her work reflects her experiences of the best and worst of both worlds. Momoe's work investigates the marginalisation of women of colour, feminism, abuse, decolonisation and cultural identity through hand block printing/paint/textiles and live performance as vocalist/shared songwriter in GUTTS (queer sax punx band) and drummer in IMMIGRANTI (qtbipoc punx band). Through creative activism Momoe aims to break silence and strengthen solidarity within overlooked communities.

creative nz
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