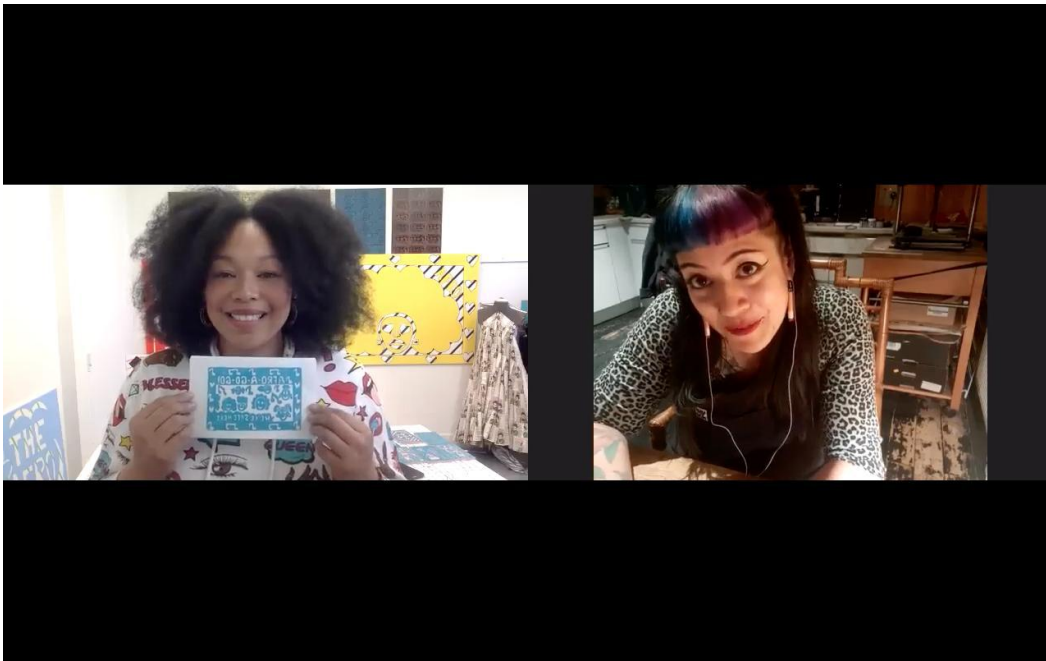


Forever Fresh Talanoa Series

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

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

Published on 28.02.2021

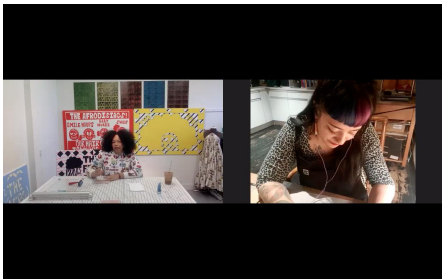


*Episode Tasi/One of our Talanoa Series features Afatasi the Artist (ADOS-Sāmoan) based in San Francisco, USA, and Momoe i manu ae ala atea'e Tasker (English/Samoan-Chinese) based in London, UK. Recorded over Zoom, they take us on a journey through their lives growing up as "islanders" on other islands, 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.*

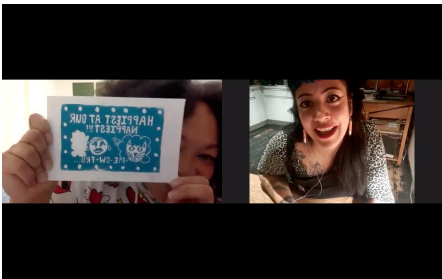
*[Click here to watch this first episode of the Talanoa series, and continue reading below for Anne-Marie Te Whiu's response to the video.](#)*



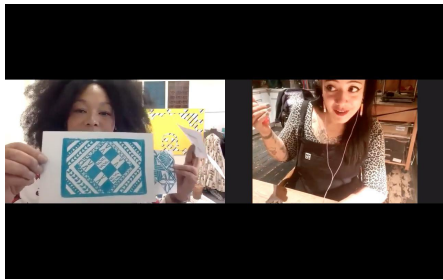
*Forever Fresh Talanoa Series, Episode Tasi/One*, 2021. Image courtesy Jessica Palalagi/In\*ter\*is\*land Collective.



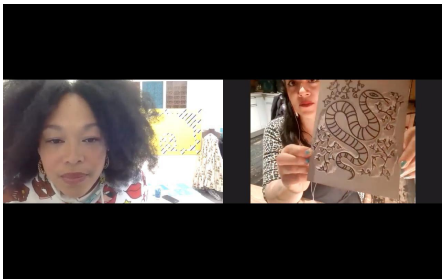
*Forever Fresh Talanoa Series, Episode Tasi/One* with Afatasi the Artist (ADOS-Samoan) based in San Fransisco, USA, and Momoe i manu ae ala atea'e Tasker (English/Samoan-Chinese) based in London, UK, 2021. Facilitated in collaboration with In\*ter\*is\*land Collective.



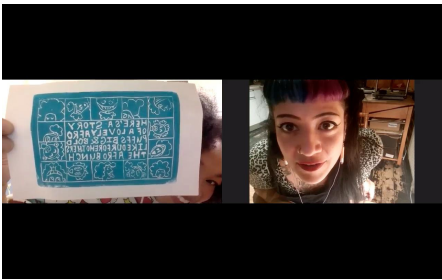
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*Forever Fresh Talanoa Series, Episode Tasi/One*, 2021. Image courtesy Jessica Palalagi.

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?

---

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

angerbunkingoffschoolcigarettesciderchildhoodwitnessingdomesti  
cviolencesubtlecovertracismatschool

[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

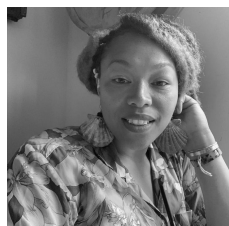
medical racism  
targeted in the birthing room

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.

