

# **Room to breathe: Ka tau hā te mauri**

**Martin Awa Clarke Langdon**

**In collaboration with tamariki of Kaunuku 1, Ararira Springs Primary Te Puna o Ararira; Artists Cora-Allan Wickliffe, Daniel Twiss, Dean Cross, T̄ēmā Igharas, Richelle Bear Hat; Staff from the Christchurch Arts Centre Te Matatiki Toi Ora**

**29 August – 11 October 2020**

**THE  
PHYSICS  
ROOM** CONTEMPORARY ART SPACE

# Room to breathe: Ka tau hā te mauri

## Martin Awa Clarke Langdon

**Exhibition runs: 29 August – 11 October 2020**

**Exhibition talk with Martin Awa Clarke Langdon:**

**Saturday 29 August, 1:00pm**

*Room to breathe: Ka tau hā te mauri* by Martin Awa Clarke Langdon (Kāi Tahu, Waikato-Tainui) is an exhibition comprising three distinct but interwoven collaborative art projects: *What's in a name?*, *To hold up the sky*, and *Kōhatu*. Each of the projects involves relationships to materials, places, and peoples. Local histories, and in particular the creation of a staged Māori pā, “Te Araiteuru” for the 1906-7 New Zealand International Exhibition, form the conceptual base from which each project was conceived and developed.

Each project approaches histories as remembered, lived, and ongoing processes of negotiation. *What's in a name?* is a collaboration with Ararira Spring Primary School students who are working with kōrari (flax stalk) to understand the power of naming and think through the connections between identity and language. Their finished “lashed” works are displayed in the gallery alongside their reflections on the process. *To hold up the sky* includes the work of five indigenous artists from Aotearoa New Zealand, Niue, Australia, United States of America, and Canada. The artists were invited by Langdon to create a space between land and sky with found and significant objects they had to hand and then record the result. In addition to the documentation of these newly-created spaces, a digital wānanga will take place on a closed Facebook group over the course of the exhibition. Finally, *Kōhatu* is a collaboration between Langdon and staff from the Christchurch Arts Centre Te Matatiki Toi Ora, which seeks to tell the journeys of a selection of kōhatu (rocks) currently stored for future restoration of the buildings within the complex. These rocks have been moved to positions outside The Physics Room to provide places to reflect on the site and surrounding environment. These collaborations are embodied processes; as we know more and experience the perspectives of others, the tangibly known and seen become tied, frayed, separated, and severed.

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**Martin and The Physics Room team would like to thank and acknowledge the mahi of:**

Tamariki of Kaunuku 1, Ararira Springs Primary Te Puna o Ararira

Artists Cora-Allan Wickliffe (Niue: Alofi / Liku), Daniel Twiss (Lakota Rosebud Reservation), Dean Cross (Raised on Ngunnawal / Ngambri Country, of Worimi descent), Tsēmā Igharas (Tahltan First Nation), Richelle Bear Hat (Blackfoot, Cree—Siksika First Nation, Blueberry First Nation)

Staff from the Christchurch Arts Centre Te Matatiki Toi Ora

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### WORK LIST

- 1a *Kōhatu*, repositioned basalt foundation stones, Martin Awa Clarke Langdon with The Arts Centre Staff, 2020
- 1b *Kōhatu information*, printed documents, written statements, and kōhatu rubbings, Martin Awa Clarke Langdon, 2020
  
- 2a *What's in a name?*, student reflections on the creation of lashed letter forms written by tamariki from Kaunuku 1, Ararira Springs Primary Te Puna o Ararira, 2020
- 2b *What's in a name? Waharoa*, hand painted architectural structure, Martin Awa Clarke Langdon, 2020
- 2c *What's in a name?*, kōrari fence made from lashed letter forms by tamariki from Kaunuku 1, Ararira Springs Primary Te Puna o Ararira and Martin Awa Clarke Langdon, 2020
  
- 3a *To hold up the sky*, live closed Facebook group for digital wānanga between indigenous artists, 2020
- 3b *To hold up the sky*, instructional documents and digital photographs submitted in response by, from left to right;  
Cora-Allan Wickliffe—Niue: Alofi / Liku  
Daniel Twiss—Lakota Rosebud Reservation  
Dean Cross—Raised on Ngunnawal / Ngambri Country, of Worimi descent  
T̄sēmā Igharas—Tahltan First Nation  
Richelle Bear Hat—Blackfoot of the Siksika First Nation, Cree of the Blueberry First Nation  
Martin Awa Clarke Langdon—Kāi Tahu, Waikato-Tainui, Ngāti Whāwhakia, Ngāti Hikairo  
All works 2020
- 3c *To hold up the sky*, earth, kōrari, Aunty Helen's quilt made for Felicity and Martin, 2020

