

GERTRUDE CONTEMPORARY

MEDIA RELEASE



Frédéric Nauczyciel, *A Baroque Ball [Shade]* (film still), 2014

UA NUMI LE FAU, CURATED BY LÉULI ESHRAGHI

ARTISTS: YUKI KIHARA, CARLOS MOTTA, DALE HARDING, FRÉDÉRIC NAUCZYCIEL, ATONG ATEM, MANDY NICHOLSON, MEGAN COPE & ROBBIE THORPE
WELCOME TO COUNTRY: WURUNDJERI ELDER, AUNTY DIANE KERR

EXHIBITION DATES: 6 MAY–25 JUNE 2016
EXHIBITION OPENING: FRIDAY 6 MAY 6–8PM

Gertrude Contemporary is pleased to present, *Ua numi le fau*, an exhibition developed through Next Wave's Emerging Curators Program with Gertrude Contemporary for Next Wave Festival 2016.

The exhibition title, *Ua numi le fau*, is a Sāmoan expression, literally translating to 'the string tying the lupe pigeon (prized in Sāmoa) is entangled' yet metaphorically meaning 'the affair is complicated and difficult'.

Ua numi le fau considers bodies and kinships through sexuality, spirituality and ecology. Articulated in multiple local and migrant languages and mediums this exhibition reflects on the heritage and practice of Aboriginal civil rights, the union movement and queer rights from Wurundjeri territory of Fitzroy, Collingwood and Abbotsford out into the wider world.

Curator, Léuli Eshraghi, brings together eight local and international artists that draw on First Nations and diasporic cultural traditions in imagining complex futures through performance video, photography and textile artworks.

These works explore what kinds of histories have reached us in the present, and which futures we are constructing in our relationships with each other, with our bodies, and with our environment.

The artists include, Yuki Kihara (Apia and Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland), Carlos Motta (Mannahatta New York), Frédéric Nauczyciel (Paris), Mandy Nicholson (Narm Melbourne), Dale Harding (Mianjin Brisbane), Atong Atem (Narm Melbourne), Megan Cope (Narm Melbourne) and Robbie Thorpe (Narm Melbourne).

A research based catalogue, series of public talks and a screening will accompany this exhibition, further contributing to multiple articulations of Indigenous queer complexity. Public Programs are open to all and will be held at various locations. See the list of programs below.

Wheelchair accessible via the front entrance, 200 Gertrude Street, Fitzroy. Auslan interpretation on opening night, Friday 6 May, 6pm.

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Léuli Eshraghi is a Sāmoan and Persian artist, curator and PhD candidate at Monash University Art Design and Architecture (MADA). His practice is centred on indigeneity, language, body, sovereignty, and queer possibility. He has exhibited in Australia, Aotearoa New Zealand and the United States. Highlights include *The Bill: For Collective Unconscious* at Artspace NZ and *Future Archaeology* at 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art, Sydney. Recent curatorial projects include *Vai Niu Wai Niu Coconut Water* at Kabul-dja Caboolture Regional Art Gallery, Queensland; *So Fukin Native* at Blak Dot Gallery, Melbourne; and *Wilin 10* at No Vacancy Gallery, Melbourne.

This exhibition is supported by the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria, the City of Melbourne, the Curatorial Practice program at Monash University Art Design and Architecture (MADA), the City of Yarra, the Embassy of France in Australia, Creative France, the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA), and the Alliance Française de Melbourne.

Next Wave's long running and highly successful Emerging Curators Program provides the most comprehensive development opportunity for young curators in Australia. Curators are supported to develop research-driven curatorial projects that span broad fields of practice, with one of five partner organisations including Gertrude Contemporary.

FOR ALL MEDIA ENQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT:
Laura De Neefe: Development & Communications
Manager
+61 3 9419 3406
laura@gertrude.org.au
200 Gertrude Street
Fitzroy VIC 3065 Australia
www.gertrude.org.au

Next Wave Publicist: Magda Petkoff
0409436473
magda@purplemedia.com.au

PUBLIC PROGRAMS:

4 MAY 7.30–8.30PM
Yuki Kihara 'A Study of a Samoan Savage'
Institute for Postcolonial Studies IPCS
78–80 Curzon St, North Melbourne
Entry: \$5 waged, \$3 unwaged, members free.

5 MAY 12.30–1.30PM
Yuki Kihara 'Vision of Salome'
VCA Artforum
School of Art, Victorian College of the Arts
254 St Kilda Road, Southbank
Entry: Free

5 MAY 4.30–5.30PM
Yuki Kihara 'A Study of a Samoan Savage'
Gender Studies Series,
Old Quad-G18 (Cussonia Court Room 2)
Building 150
The University of Melbourne, Grattan St, Parkville.
Entry: Free

18 MAY 1–2PM
Dale Harding 'Cultural Safety as Research
Methodology'
MADA Artforum
G104, Monash University Art Design and
Architecture (MADA)
900 Dandenong Rd, Caulfield East.
Entry: Free

24 MAY 6–8PM
Film Screening and Q&A with Frédéric Nauczyciel
Gertrude Contemporary
200 Gertrude St, Fitzroy
Entry: Free

25 MAY 1–2PM
MADA Art Forum Lecture by Frédéric Nauczyciel
Monash University Art Design and Architecture
900 Dandenong Rd, Caulfield East
Entry: Free

26 MAY 12.30–1.30PM
Léuli Eshraghi and Frédéric Nauczyciel
VCA Artforum
School of Art, Victorian College of the Arts
254 St Kilda Rd, Southbank
Entry: Free

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