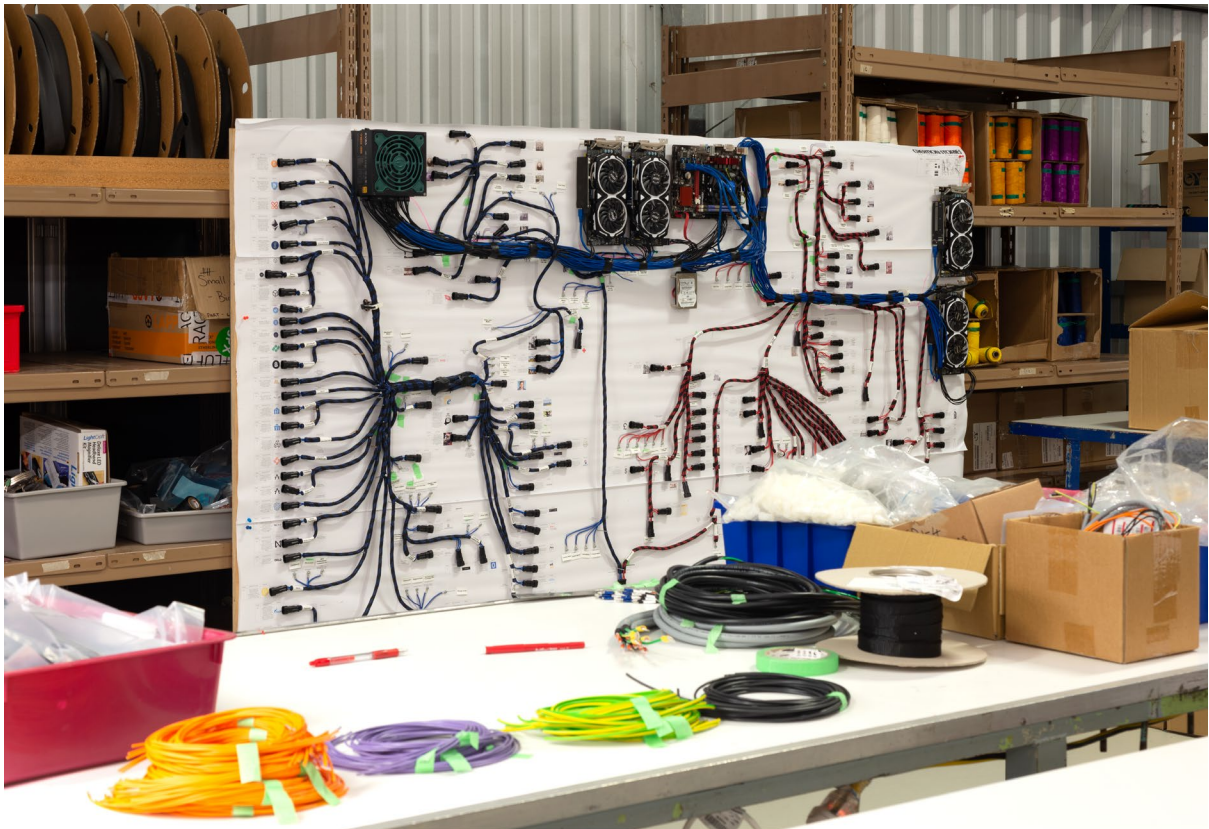


PRESS RELEASE

Creation Stories

A project by Simon Denny and Karamia Müller

Opening 6 August 2022



Simon Denny & Karamia Müller, artwork in production at Swatek Limited, Ardmore. Photography by Alex North.

Creation Stories: A project by Simon Denny and Karamia Müller

6 August–22 October, Gus Fisher Gallery / 6 August–10 September, Michael Lett

David Bennewith (Aotearoa/Netherlands), **Daniel Boyd** (Kudjila/Gangalu peoples, Australia), **Joseph Churchward** (Samoa/Aotearoa), **Julian Dashper** (Aotearoa), **Simon Denny** (Aotearoa/Germany), **John Denny** (Aotearoa), **Sarah Friend** (Germany), **D Harding** (Bidjara/Ghungalu/Garingbal peoples, Australia), **Leah Jaynes Karp** (USA), **Ryan Kuo** (USA), **Karamia Müller** (Aotearoa/Samoa/Solomon Islands/Switzerland), **Buck Nin** (Ngāti Raukawa, Ngāti Toa), **Michael Stevenson** (Aotearoa/Germany), **Salle Tamatoa & Tunagi Funaki** (Aotearoa/Niue).

Creation Stories was conceived by artist Simon Denny together with artist and architectural researcher Dr Karamia Müller. It is the first collaborative project by Berlin-based Denny and Auckland-based Müller to be staged in Tāmaki Makaurau and will take place across Gus Fisher Gallery and Michael Lett. The exhibition includes major new commissioned artworks by Denny and Müller and brings work by a diverse group of international artists to Aotearoa for the first time.

The new co-authored artworks by Denny and Müller visualise creation stories; how commerce, sovereignty, technology and polity connect the Pacific to German-speaking Europe. The artworks bring together the artists' family trees together with Samoa's political history, colonial products made from indigenous plants, both artist's familial involvement in the creation of currency, the recent emergence of cryptocurrencies and the infrastructure of Pacific telecommunications. Denny and Müller's artworks adapt structures of electrical wiring harnesses used to power vehicles to form sculptures. *Creation Stories* foregrounds different versions of known and lesser known narratives in the Pacific with a focus on dialogues between Europe, the US, Samoa and Aotearoa. By spanning several centuries, cultures and genealogies, the exhibition draws on the artists' own ancestries and their connections to these regions—in the 1920s Denny's great-grandfather was Chief Justice in Samoa while Müller's great-grandfather was involved in significant commercial activity with Swiss and German colonial enterprises in Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Tonga after leaving Switzerland.

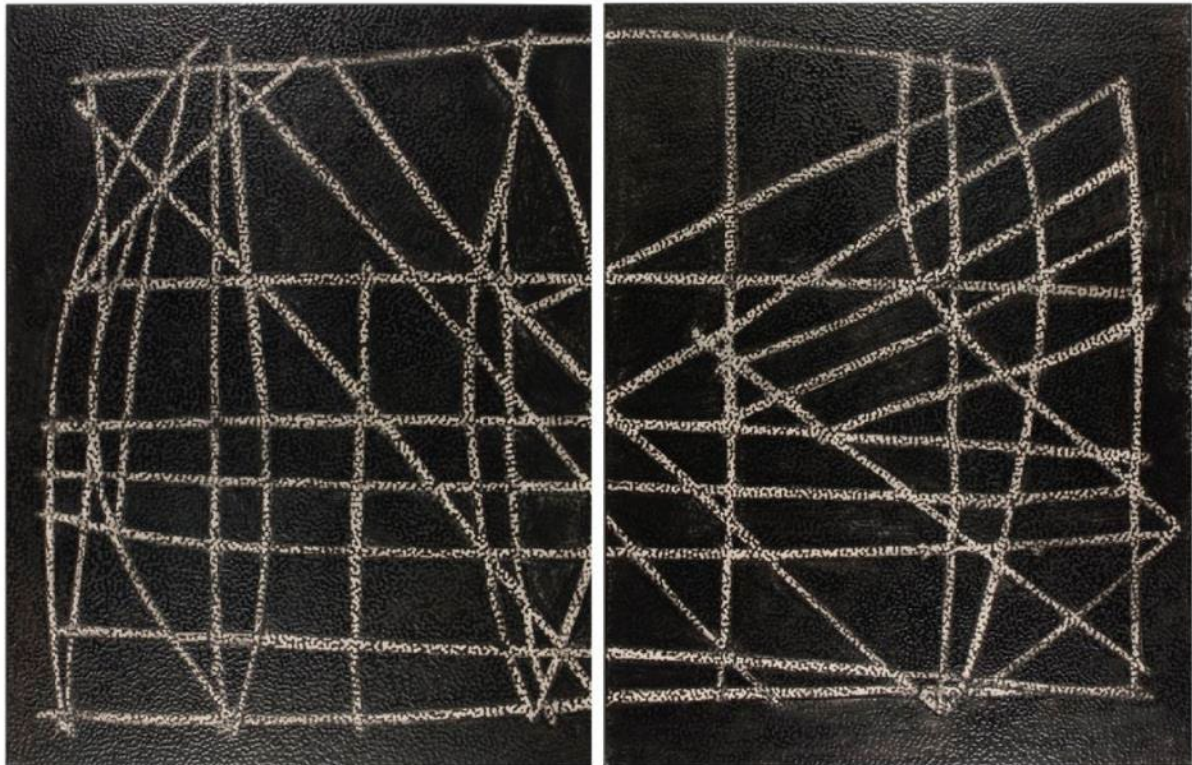
With the aid of multidisciplinary research, artistic collaboration and artworks by leading Aotearoa and international artists, *Creation Stories* interprets narratives of beginnings and interconnections with the exhibition itself becoming a social graph of shared spaces, representation and entanglement. Denny and Müller invite visitors to consider their place within these shared spaces, of intertwining histories with people and cultures and the role we all play as part of a network of connections that stem from our place in Aotearoa and the Pacific.

For further information please contact:

Gus Fisher Gallery | Lisa Beauchamp l.beauchamp@auckland.ac.nz | 09 923 6646

Michael Lett | Victoria Wynne-Jones Victoria@michaellett.com | 09 309 7848

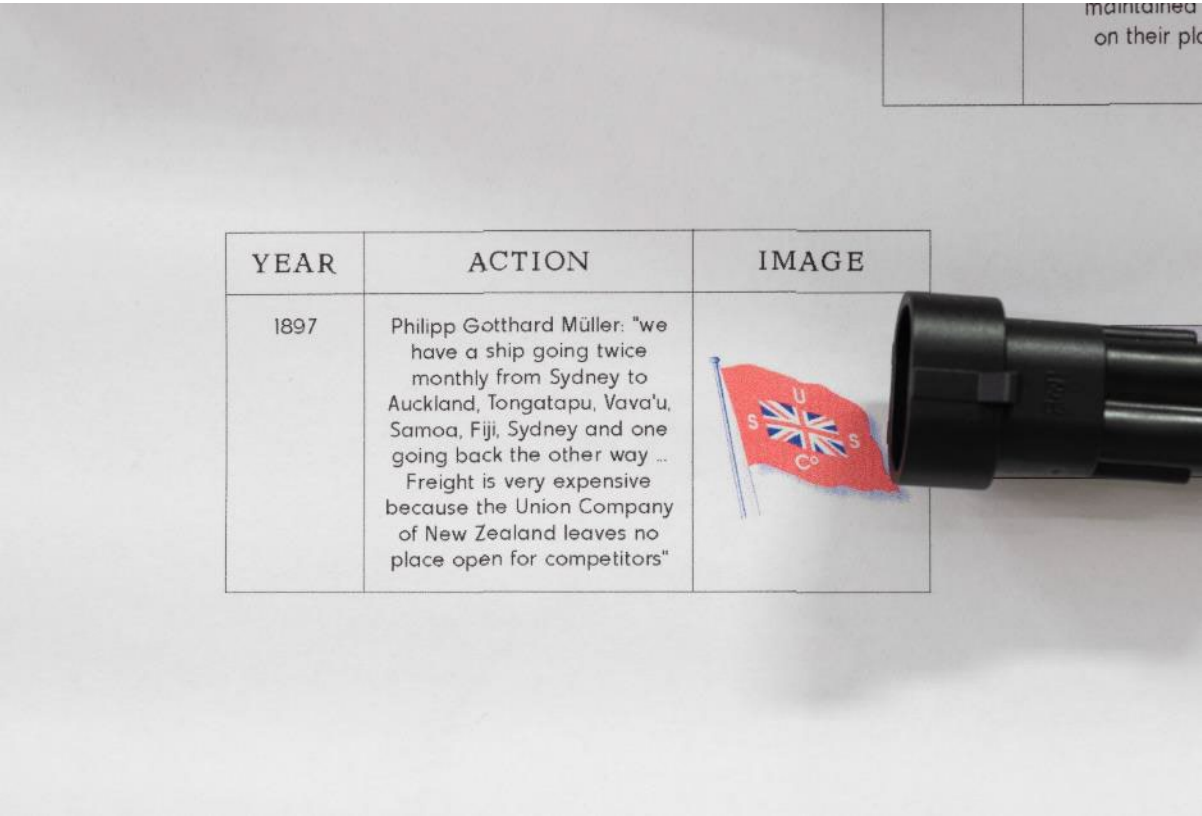
High resolution images available on request



Daniel Boyd, Untitled (T11), 2015. Buxton International Collection, Melbourne.



Leah Jaynes Karp, "The Numbers are Growing", 1982, High Museum of Art, Atlanta. Gift of Lucinda W. Bunnan for the Bunnan collection.



Simon Denny & Karamia Müller, artwork in production (details) at Swatek Limited, Ardmore. Photography by Alex North.



Michael Stevenson, Julian Dashper's School Certificate Folio (after lost original) 2000 various media. Image courtesy of the artist and Michael Lett.



Michael Stevenson, Michael Parekowhai's School Certificate Folio (after lost original) 2000, various media. Image courtesy of the artist and Michael Lett.

Creation Stories

A Project by Simon Denny and Karamia Müller

Gus Fisher Gallery
74 Shortland Street
Auckland Central

6 August – 22 October 2022

Exhibition open Tuesday - Friday 10am-5pm, Saturday 10am-4pm

Michael Lett Gallery
312 Karangahape Road
Auckland Central

6 August – 10 September 2022

Exhibition open Wednesday - Friday 11am-5pm, Saturday 11am-3pm

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