

Press Release

Pacific artists show works in Auckland at okaiocanikart@ Reef Gallery

Warming up to the Pasefika Festival, okaiocanikart, the world's only Pan Pacific art gallery located here in Auckland is featuring 3 exhibitions of 9 artists in March' says Marilyn Kohlhase, Gallery Director. 'The artists all of Pacific origin are based across the greater Pacific from Papua New Guinea, Fiji, New Caledonia, Australia and the United States. First up is OKAI-SONS ON THE REEF - 5 Island boys with Daniel Waswas of PNG with Masters in Fine Arts from Elam Art School at the University of Auckland and just back from a major international exhibition in Taiwan of dramatic uncompromising faces contrasting with the delicate unique ink and water colour drawings of the very hot and now Niuean Tama Jacobsen. Others are Laben Sakale - PNG, Abraham Lagi - Fiji and David Teata – Cook Islands. This exhibition also marks a partnership with Reef Gallery and opens on March 3rd in their Reef Group Gallery at 69-71 Beach Road.

PASIFIKANA 2010 Artists from New Caledonia features Ela To'omaga who is showing gorgeous one off sculptural copper jewellery in her Taulima or Samoan tattoo Series. Yvette Bouquet of Kanak origin is an established painter of acrylic canvases who has exhibited widely internationally and is one of the Grand Aunts of Melanesian contemporary art. New to our shores is Alexis Fisiipeau of Wallis heritage who paints in oils. Their show supported by the local Auckland Kanak (indigenous people of New Caledonia) community opens on Tuesday 9 March at okaiocanikart, The Langham Auckland 65 Karangahape Rd.

THE WAY IN IS THE WAY OUT includes new work created for the Aroha Festival by Dan Taulapapa McMullin LA based American Samoan who is prolific fa'afafine artist, academic, writer and film maker whose paintings are about Samoan stories, family history and the complexities of identity. This third solo exhibition uses traditional abstract forms from Oceania that will provoke discussion. Opens Wednesday 10 March at okaiocanikart, The Langham Auckland 65 Karangahape Rd.

Ends

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