



JULIA MAGE'AU GRAY

MEKEO PEOPLE

BORN 1973, PORT MORESBY, CENTRAL PROVINCE,

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

LIVES AND WORKS IN AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

Julia Mage'au Gray is a dancer, choreographer, skin marker (tattooist), photographer and film-maker who is interested in exploring her Papuan and Mekeo heritage within an urban Australian and New Zealand context. Her performances frequently combine dance with evocative video narratives. Now based in Auckland, Gray co-founded the performance group Surnameke in 1997. Dress or adornment, including the marking of the body with tatu (tattoo), is often of particular significance in her performances and films.

www.surnameke.com

Images- 1 Tep Tok documentary still | 2 A'inaisa at APT8 | 3 Invisible, Wearing My Map for the PDF





Selected Work

2021

Film

Tep Tok - Our Lines Connect Us

Released January 23rd, 2021 at the Auckland Museum

Partly Funded by: Creative NZ, Wantok Music Foundation, Auckland Council.

2020

Film

Tep Tok - The Auckland Conversation

Released December 6th, 2020 at the Pasifika Film Fest Pop Up Screening

Partly Funded by: Auckland City Council, Screened at Pasifika Film Fest

2019

Exhibitions

'Lain Blo Yu Mi - Our People Our Lines' - Vunilagi Vou, Otahuhu

Film

Tep Tok Documentary, Screening at Vunilagi Vou as part of the Lain Blu You Mi Exhibition

Tep Tok Documentary, Screening at the Marama Dina exhibition by 'The Veiqia Project' at Campbelltown Arts Centre, Sydney

Marks

'Traditional Tattoo Festival' - Hawai'i, USA

Tā Tatau + Tā Moko Fono / Hui: Patterns of Identity - Corban Estate, Auckland

Marking in Port Moresby - Edai - Mekeo, Papua New Guinea

Ink Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia

2018

Dance

Nesian Dance Classes at Te Oro and Wellesley Studios - Auckland, New Zealand

Film

The Calling, A Maternal Lens exhibition at the Casablanca Biennale 27th Oct - 2nd Dec - Casablanca, Morocco

Tep Tok Documentary, Screening at the Interisland Collective - Moku Pacific HQ, London, UK

Pasifika Film Fest, Rōpū, Short documentary screening in the Niu Kids Shorts

Marks

'A Maternal Lens exhibition at the 4th Casablanca Biennale' - Casablanca, Morocco.

Marking demonstrations at Interisland Collective - Moku Pacific HQ, London, UK

2017

Dance

Shifting the Maiden - Pacific Dance New Zealand 'Artist in Residence', - New Zealand

Found Words, Wahine Toa Night, Pacific Dance Festival at Mangere Arts Centre, - Auckland, New Zealand.

Film

Pasifika Film Festival, Tep Tok Documentary Screening at Manukau Events Cinemas, 19th Feb - Auckland, New Zealand

FIFO - Festival International Du Film Documentaire Oceanien, Papeete, Tahiti

Marks

'Traditional Tattoo and World Culture Festival' - Mallorca, Spain

2016

Dance

'Wearing My Map' for the Measina Festival at Pataka Art Museum - Porirua, Wellington New Zealand.

Twist and Loop, No1 Neighbour - Art in PNG 1966-2016, QAGOMA – QLD, Australia

Yam Harvest for APT8, QAGOMA – QLD, Australia

Wearing My Map, Wahine Toa - Pacific Dance Festival Mangere Arts Centre, - Auckland, New Zealand

Film

School Program, No1 Neighbour - Art in PNG 1966-2016, QAGOMA - QLD, Australia

Tep Tok Documentary, No1 Neighbour - Art in PNG 1966-2016, QAGOMA - QLD, Australia

Marks

Melanesian Marks Live Tattooing at Pataka Art Museum - Porirua, Wellington NZ

2015

Dance

Reveal, APT8, QAGOMA - QLD, Australia

Yumi Danis APT8, QAGOMA - QLD, Australia

A'inaisa APT8, QAGOMA - QLD, Australia

Rako & Vou Dance workshops - Suva, Fiji

Pacific Games Opening & Closing Ceremony, Pacific Games Opening Ceremony - Papua New Guinea

Film

Tep Tok Documentary, Australian High Commission and National Museum & Art Gallery - Papua New Guinea

Marks

Melanesian Marks Live Tattooing - QAGOMA

Revival of Motu Marks with Terita Gamoga Toea, Pacific Games Opening Ceremony - Papua New Guinea