

Sculpture on the Gulf
Media release
Tuesday, 24 April 2026

Final Artist Lineup Announced Sculpture on the Gulf 2027

28 April 2026 – Sculpture on the Gulf is thrilled to announce the final lineup of artists for the 2027 event, completing an outstanding roster of talent for Perpetual Guardian Sculpture on the Gulf 2027. Joining the previously announced artists are nine new additions: **Margaret Aull, Tangaroa Birch, Jacquelyn Greenbank, Glen Hayward, Doyoung Koh, Melissa Macleod, Hemi Macgregor, and Alex Monteith & Maree Sheehan.**

Since its inception in 2003, Sculpture on the Gulf has become a much-loved and renowned outdoor sculpture exhibition, making a unique contribution to the cultural life of Aotearoa New Zealand. Nestled on a 2.5 km coastal walkway against the breathtaking backdrop of Matiatia Bay, the event harnesses the potential of contemporary sculpture to activate the environment, creating opportunities for audiences to experience the power and beauty of sculpture in the landscape.

Co-curators Heather Galbraith and Benjamin Work have created the curatorial framework *The Ocean Remembers the Shore*, inspired by Waiheke Island's long history of offering shelter to those seeking safety and connection, reflected in its original name, Te Motu Ārai Roa / The long sheltering island.

“Among the thirty projects, we are excited by the breadth of materials and processes artists are engaging, all of which have resonant and relevant kaupapa. These include; *‘Land Raft where* Judy Darragh, Sean Kerr, Qianye Lin and Qianhe Lin will create nomadic, temporary stations on the Matiatia grass lands - working only with materials already on the island (in collaboration with Island Waste Collective). Intentionally ambiguous as to whether these structures have beached or are primed to facilitate an escape off the island, they will bring people together, and act as a relational portal or cipher to other entities and frequencies.

SJ Blake will construct a site of theatrical encounter - channelling the seaside structures of fairgrounds and Punch and Judy shows. Interaction will span the body and mixed-reality modes, with a strong focus on ecological awareness and the restorative act of looking and imagining.

Another work that offering a space for looking, thinking and dreaming is Evan Woodruffe's technicolour re-working of a modest structure, transformed from a historic outhouse to a site for rest and meditation enshrouded by jewel-like abstract paintings.

Ann Shelton will be exploring through photography the potent medicinal and culinary

powers of a crucial part of our marine ecosystem - seaweed, drawing on rich histories of knowledge including from Indigenous and non-Indigenous sources.

Sione Faletau will be exploring the relationship of field recordings/sonic data through an evolution of visual kupesi (patterns), which in turn through sculptural transformation, become a new means to experience sound played by the wind on an exaggerated suite of fangufangu.

These are five of thirty projects, predominantly new work, that artists will be making for this knock-out season, *The Ocean Remembers the Shore*. “

With the full artist line-up now confirmed, the meticulous planning by the SOTG team ramps up in earnest.

Early bird tickets will be available mid-year. Perpetual Guardian Sculpture on the Gulf 2027 will open to the public on February 26 and run until March 29, 2027. The exhibition will be accompanied by a series of events, including artist talks, workshops, and guided tours.

Waiheke is a 40-minute ferry trip from Auckland. It has vineyards, world-class hospitality, pristine beaches, and scenery that feeds the soul. Book ahead to eat, play and stay on this island paradise.

To subscribe for early bird tickets, see the full artist line up, or to become a Patron or volunteer, please visit www.sotg.nz

Several artists in the Perpetual Guardian Sculpture on the Gulf 2027 lineup will also be presenting work at the Aotearoa Art Fair 2026 (30 April – 3 May, Viaduct Events Centre, Tāmaki Makaurau). Anton Forde, Tangaroa Birch, Chris Bailey, Sione Faletau, Ben Pearce, Ngaroma Riley, Glen Hayward, and Ann Shelton will each exhibit with their respective galleries at the Fair, offering audiences a unique opportunity to experience these artists in an intimate gallery context before their large-scale works take to the coastal landscape of Waiheke Island in 2027. www.artfair.co.nz

Full Artist Lineup for Perpetual Guardian Sculpture on the Gulf 2027

Margaret Aull	<p>Margaret Aull (b. 1978, Te Rarawa, Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Fiji) is a Māori–Fijian artist and curator whose practice bridges painting, sculpture, and installation to explore whakapapa, tapu/tabu, and cultural knowledge systems. Based in Te Awamutu, Aull has exhibited widely across Aotearoa, Fiji, Australia, the United States, and Morocco, where she presented at the Casablanca Biennale in 2018.</p> <p>Her work is both deeply personal and politically resonant, weaving Māori and Pacific perspectives to interrogate identity, ritual, and the role of art in cultural wellbeing. Recent projects include <i>Toi is Rongoā</i> (Waikato Museum, 2022); her ongoing work as a member of The Veiqia Project was recognised with the Pacific Heritage Art Award by Creative New Zealand in 2025.</p>
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	<p>She has been instrumental in establishing kaupapa that strengthen Indigenous arts and cultural practice, including Āhua Gallery for New Zealand Māori Arts and Crafts Institute and project manager for Haumanu Collective. Beyond the studio, Aull is a respected arts advocate, serving on advisory groups for Toi Māori Aotearoa, Creative New Zealand, Toi Ngā Puhī, and Toi Tūwharetoa.</p>
Chris Bailey	<p>Chris Bailey (b.1965) lives on Waiheke Island and is of Ngāti Paoa, Ngāti Hako, Ngāti Porou descent. In the early 2000's, he studied Māori material culture at Auckland University before becoming a full-time sculptor and carver. Much of his work is monumental public artwork, informed by his heritage as he works to engage the public with Māori concepts and return his people's voice to the physical landscape. Working in bronze, stone and timber, his works are held in public and private collections throughout New Zealand and globally. He was granted Te Ara Whakareī – lifetime Toi Iho status by Creative NZ in 2005, James Wallace Trust New Zealand Sculptor in 2014, and Creative Visionary Award by HMBA in 2025.</p>
Tangaroa Birch	<p>Tangaroa Birch (Ngāpuhi, Ngāi Tawake, Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāti Rakaipaaka) is a Māori artist known for his innovative practice, Painting With Light, where carving and etching create reflective surfaces that capture and refract light into shifting colour and movement. His works draw from Māori spiritualism and his upbringing in the moana — echoing ripples, tides, maramataka, and kŕero tuku iho from his whānau's East Coast and Taitokerau connections.</p> <p>Birch's practice also reflects on the political, social, and economic realities of Māori in Aotearoa. He holds a Master of Māori Visual Arts from Massey University, where he formerly lectured in the Toioho ki Āpiti programme. Birch is currently leading a major new Civic Precinct project in Ahuriri–Napier while exhibiting nationally and internationally. He is represented by Martin Browne Contemporary, Milford Gallery, and Foenander Gallery.</p>
SJ Blake	<p>SJ Blake (b.1983) is an experimental artist and performance designer based on Waiheke Island. After studying at the Motley Theatre Design Course in London in 2007, she has worked across experimental performance while steadily moving toward a fine arts practice. Blake explores mixed media, combining digital technologies with handmade processes. Her immersive performance <i>A Fantastical Journey by Boat</i>, which incorporated VR, was selected to represent Aotearoa at the 2021 ARS Electronica Festival.</p>
Elliot Collins	<p>Elliot Collins (b.1983) is an artist, researcher, and tutor who works across a range of media within the visual arts. He gained a practice-led Ph.D. from AUT University in 2019, researching <i>Memory Markers in the Landscape in Aotearoa New Zealand</i>. His interests focus on ideas of present/absent texts within 'memory markers' in Aotearoa New Zealand, alongside motifs that represent distinctive forms of meaning-making narratives.</p>
Sean Kerr, Judy Darragh, Qianye & Qianhe Lin	<p>Artist Collective presenting <i>Land Raft: Signals and Collectivity</i> (working title). Judy Darragh ONZM (b.1957) is an artist making brightly coloured sculptural assemblages, collage, video, and photography. Qianye and Qianhe Lin are siblings working in multi-channel video installation. Sean Kerr is Associate</p>

	Professor at Elam School of Fine Arts, specialising in real-time 3D, VR, and interactive technologies.
Sione Faletau	Dr. Sione Faletau (b.1991) is an Aotearoa-born Tongan artist based in Ōtara, South Auckland. His multidisciplinary practice spans performance, sculpture, installation, and digital art. Drawing on Moana knowledge systems, his recent work explores sonic mark-making and projection mapping to create immersive environments.
Anton Forde	Anton Forde (b.1973, Taranaki, Gaeltacht, Gaelic, English) is widely celebrated for his sculptural practice, which explores whakapapa, wairua, and our profound connection to the natural world. His work bridges tradition and contemporary form, honouring Māori worldviews while engaging universally with themes of identity, guardianship, and spirituality.
Gill Gatfield	Gill Gatfield (b.1963) lives in Whangaparāoa. She completed her Masters of Fine Arts (Hons) in 2004 from the University of Auckland. Her abstract sculptures and installations address ancestral intelligence and speculative futures, in real and virtual worlds. She has exhibited internationally, including at the Venice Art Biennale 2022 and Venice Architecture Biennale 2018.
Jacquelyn Greenbank	Jacquelyn Fang Greenbank is a self-portrait installation artist whose practice questions cultural identifiers and social histories through the thematic vehicle of food and plant knowledge. Working across installation and sculpture, she draws on her mixed Chinese/European ancestry to investigate assimilation, inherited culture, and the value of what we choose to monumentalise and pass on.
Glen Hayward	<p>Hayward graduated with a Doctorate from Elam in 2005. In 2003 he participated in the inaugural Sculpture on the Gulf, and studied at Atelier Parekowhai 93–95. He fell in love with sculpture through the object put to use in the performances of John Lyall. Art was and remains a place where it is not what it is — ‘it’ being the English word for Id.</p> <p>This ‘it’ or thingly quality of people and the world at large is what induces relationship, what artists dignify, and ultimately what eludes us — and in doing so tells us something about the world. It is the space in a vase, the gaps between timbers on a seat, and the enlivening space under the table for a child at a dinner party. The miracle that the skin of a loved one contains your whole world. He is represented by Paul Nache.</p>
Sean Hill	Sean Hill is a multidisciplinary artist of Kiwi/Samoan descent based in Ngamotu, Taranaki. His practice focuses on conceptual exploration using movement, frequency, colour, texture, nature, and materials to express energy in physical form. He has exhibited with Scott Lawrie Gallery (Scotland), Alcaston Art Gallery (Melbourne), and the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery.
Stevei Houkāmau	Stevei Houkāmau (b.1979, Ngāti Porou, Te Whānau-ā-Apanui) is a full-time uku artist based in Wellington. Her practice considers uku (clay) as both body and memory. She received the Kiingi Tūheitia Portraiture Award in 2023 and has represented Aotearoa at FESTPAC in Guahan.

<p>Ioane Ioane & Martin Loire</p>	<p>Ioane Ioane (Auckland, b.1962) and Martin Loire (Auckland, b. Buenos Aires 1976) collaborate across sculpture, installation, poetry, and performance. Together, they weave material, language, and ritual into works that open connective spaces between cultures, memories, and the shifting thresholds of identity.</p>
<p>Fiona Jack</p>	<p>Fiona Jack is an artist based in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland who teaches at the Elam School of Fine Arts. Her practice ranges from large-scale public commissions to social projects formed through dialogue and research. She holds an MFA from CalArts and is currently a PhD candidate at the University of Westminster.</p>
<p>Emily Karaka & Reuben Kirkwood</p>	<p>Emily Karaka is a leading figure in contemporary Māori art, with works held in most major art institutions in Aotearoa. For Sculpture on the Gulf 2027, she collaborates with fellow Ngāi Tai Ki Tāmaki artist Reuben Kirkwood, whose architectural sculptural works and carved gateways are installed on many sites of significance across Auckland and the Hauraki Gulf.</p>
<p>Virginia King</p>	<p>Virginia King was born in Kawakawa, Northland. Over four decades she has created a portfolio of large-scale, site-specific works for public locations. By magnifying and abstracting the scale of natural life forms, she draws attention to the beauty and vulnerability of our environment. An Antarctic Artist Fellowship in 1999 was a pivotal experience in her career.</p>
<p>Doyoung Koh</p>	<p>Doyoung Koh is a Kiwi–Korean sculptor whose practice explores the metaphysical and philosophical ideas of memory, nostalgia, and loss. Drawing on Obangsaek — a traditional Korean philosophy that uses colour to connect the five elements and directions of life — Koh creates sculptural works that investigate memory traces: the spaces where forgotten recollections re-emerge through visual and sensory cues.</p>
<p>Hemi Macgregor</p>	<p>Hemi Macgregor (b. 1975, Ngāti Rākaipaaka, Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāi Tuhoē) is a highly respected artist and educator who graduated from the Māori Visual Arts programme at Te Pūtahi-a-Toi, Massey University, and is currently an Associate Professor with Whiti o Rehua School of Art at Massey University. He is a former committee member for Te Atinga Māori Arts under Toi Māori, a former member of the Wellington Sculpture Trust Advisory Group, and works with local schools through the Ahurea Māori programme and Creatives in Schools initiative. Hemi’s practice spans painting, sculpture, and installation, with collaboration a central thread of his career. Recent exhibitions include Waiora, Hastings City Art Gallery 2022–2023; Matarau, City Art Gallery Wellington 2021–2022; and Toi Tū Toi Ora: Contemporary Māori Art 2020–2021. From 2015 to 2021 he was a member of Te Kahui Toi, the Māori artist team that guided the creation of Te Rau Karamu Marae at Massey University’s Wellington campus.</p>
<p>Melissa Macleod</p>	<p>Melissa Macleod is a performance and installation artist based in Aotearoa New Zealand whose practice engages with landscape, environmental vulnerability, and community action. Her work draws directly on the coastal environment of</p>

	<p>Waiheke Island, responding to the Shoreline Adaption Plan 2025 which places Matiatia Bay on its vulnerable list as ‘unarmoured’.</p>
<p>Michelle Mayn</p>	<p>Michelle Mayn (b.1963) lives in Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland. She completed a Masters of Visual Arts at AUT in 2019. Her sculpture and installation practice explores ancient textile methods alongside intra-active phenomena, with site-specific installations exhibited internationally.</p>
<p>Alex Monteith & Maree Sheehan</p>	<p>Alex Monteith is a multi-disciplinary artist, filmmaker, and Associate Professor whose practice intersects environmental activism, oceanic geographies, and contemporary art. A former Irish National Women’s Surfing Champion (2001), her work engages colonial impacts on ocean ecologies in Aotearoa; she has exhibited at the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, MMK Frankfurt, Centre Pompidou, and the Asia Pacific Triennales at QAGOMA. Maree Sheehan (Ngāti Maniapoto, Waikato, Ngāti Tuwharetoa, Raukawa, Ngāti Tahu-Ngāti Whaoa) is a Māori composer, sound artist, and performer honoured as Māori Researcher of the Year by the Royal Society of New Zealand (2024). A passionate advocate for Mātauranga Māori, her work spans sound ecology, music composition, and recent exhibitions at QAGOMA and Haus Der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin. For Sculpture on the Gulf 2027, Monteith and Sheehan present a new collaborative work.</p>
<p>Gabby O’Connor</p>	<p>Gabby O’Connor is an artist, transdisciplinary researcher, Antarctic, science communicator and educator. Her work looks at different entry points to conversations about terrestrial and marine ecosystems connected to a changing climate. She earned a PhD at the University of Auckland in 2025.</p>
<p>Ben Pearce</p>	<p>Ben Pearce (b.1982, Palmerston North) completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts majoring in Sculpture at Wanganui Quay School of Fine Arts in 2003. He was the inaugural recipient of the \$30,000 ARA Art Award in Hawke’s Bay in 2022. His work is held in prominent private collections throughout New Zealand, Australia, Germany, the UK, and the USA.</p>
<p>Elisabeth Pointon</p>	<p>Elisabeth Pointon (b.1992) lives in Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland and holds a BFA (2014) and MFA (2017) from Massey University. An artist of Indo-Fijian and Pākehā descent, Pointon works across sculpture, public intervention, video, and painting to interrogate systems of influence through the slippages within language.</p>
<p>Ngaroma Riley</p>	<p>Ngaroma Riley is an artist and people connector of Te Rarawa, Te Aupōuri, and Pākehā descent. A founder of Te Ana o Hine, a wahine-led carving shed based at Te Tuhi in Tāmaki Makaurau, Ngaroma’s work and research centres on Māori narratives, with a focus on retelling whānau, hapū and iwi stories through a wahine Māori lens.</p>
<p>Taarn Scott</p>	<p>Taarn Scott is an artist from Ōtepoti, based in Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland. Their multidisciplinary and often collaborative practice creates tactile objects informed by ornamentation and jewellery, exploring ideas around habitat, environmental concerns and geographical histories.</p>

Ann Shelton	Ann Shelton (b. NZ, 1967, Pākehā/Italian) identifies as queer. Her work engages questions around the disciplined body and how that discipline plays out through gender, sexuality, reproduction, medicine, food, and crime, most recently in relation to plants and their impacts on the body. Her first institutional solo exhibition in the United States was presented at Alice Austen House, New York in 2024.
Sally Smith	Sally Smith (b.1968) lives on Waiheke Island. She studied Architecture at Auckland University before following a full-time art practice from 2010. Working in bronze, cast glass and steel, her works range from monumental public artworks to more delicate wall installations. She has exhibited in several Sculpture on the Gulf events.
Evan Woodruffe	Evan Woodruffe (b.1965) has engaged with colour as a sensation and a material for over 25 years, extending his painting practice into a language applied to canvas, clothing, furniture, and luxury cars. Significant exhibitions include the 8th Beijing Biennale (2019) and Sydney Contemporary (2024). He holds an MFA (1st Class) from the University of Auckland.

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