SAMUEL TUPOU DUPLIKATOR 21 JULY > 9 OCTOBER 2016



Originally an historic home, Linden New Art is a unique gallery whose restrictions become starting points for artists to explore, respond and create.

> INTRODUCTION

As a home for new art we are open to bold ideas, to different ways of experiencing and seeing the world and oneself. We believe this role is an important part of contemporary art and we aim to foster a curious audience

that is open to engaging with new thinking and sometimes challenging viewpoints.

Samuel Tupou's exhibition 'Duplikator' represents a key shift in Linden's programming to focus on presenting solo exhibitions by mid career artists. We believe this shift provides a significant opportunity for audiences to learn about and support the work of these artists and to ensure that Linden assists in supporting a vibrant cultural life.

Samuel's exploration of his Tongan heritage through the referencing of Tapa cloth patterning enriches and layers his street art aesthetic, merging and layering a range of cultural images and ideas to create a unique body of new work for this exhibition.

Melinda Martin Director July 2016



SAMUEL TUPOU, 'Buff-a-yolo Repeata', 2016, silkscreen on PVC. Image reproduced courtesy of the artist and MARS Gallery, Melbourne. Photograph: Al Simm.

> THANK YOU

Linden New Art is grateful to the many people who have supported 'Duplikator'. They too share our passion for supporting the work of Australian artists on their journey to vibrant artistic careers.

Thank you to:

- Vincent Cooper from Tolarno Hotel our boutique art inspired accommodation partner
- Andy Dinan & Claire La Greca from MARS Gallery who have assisted us with this exhibition

 as always a delight
- Our sponsors and donors who support us to achieve our goals
- The Board and team at Linden who each contribute with a rich array of skills and passion.



SAMUEL TUPOU, 'The Life and Times of Scott Howard', 2016, silkscreen on PVC. Image reproduced courtesy of the artist and MARS Gallery, Melbourne. Photograph: Al Simm.

Born in New Zealand of Tongan and New Zealand descent, Tupou moved to Australia with his family and spent his formative years growing up in Nhulunbuy in Arnhem Land, in the Northern Territory.

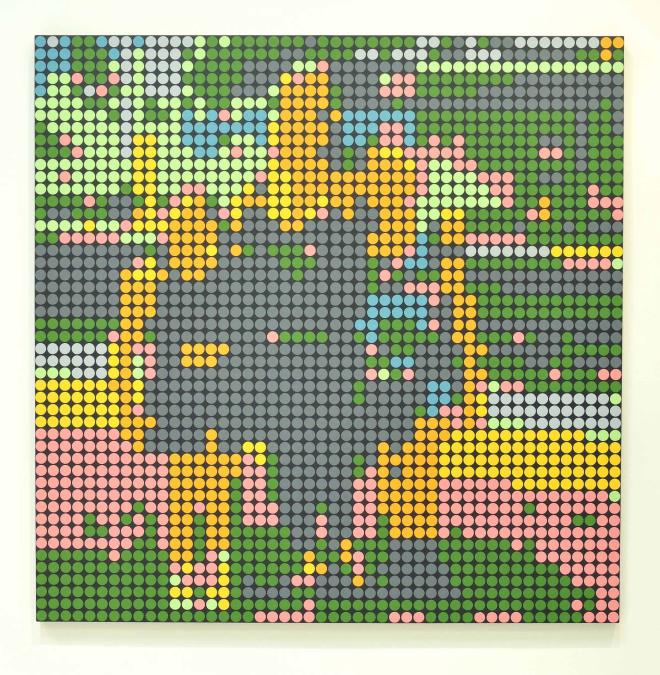
SAMUEL TUPOU > DUPLIKATOR

Samuel credits his time growing up in Nhulunbuy, a small and isolated community with limited resources, as developing his strong sense of selfreliance. He views this personal trait as a key influence in the development of his arts practice by having to create his own opportunities and to make things happen meant basically doing it himself. Once finishing high school

Samuel went straight to art school commencing Printmaking at James Cook University in Townsville. Completing his degree in Lismore at Southern Cross University, Samuel then moved to Cairns in the late 1990's.

Here Samuel encountered limited opportunities for young artists to exhibit their work and this led to the formation of the Upholstery Arts Collective. Over the next ten years the Upholstery built a reputation for organising one-night exhibitions in abandoned spaces around the Cairns region. Samuel's commitment and personal drive to see young artists' work seen by the public led him to set up a couple of his own creative spaces, Merchants of Fine Objects 2007-12 and currently poly Gone Cowboy established in 2014.

Growing up Samuel describes his contact with his father's Tongan culture as fragmented due to the pressures of the day to assimilate, intensified by being in an intercultural marriage. As with many families from this era, the ongoing sharing of traditional culture to the next generation growing up became unfortunately distant.

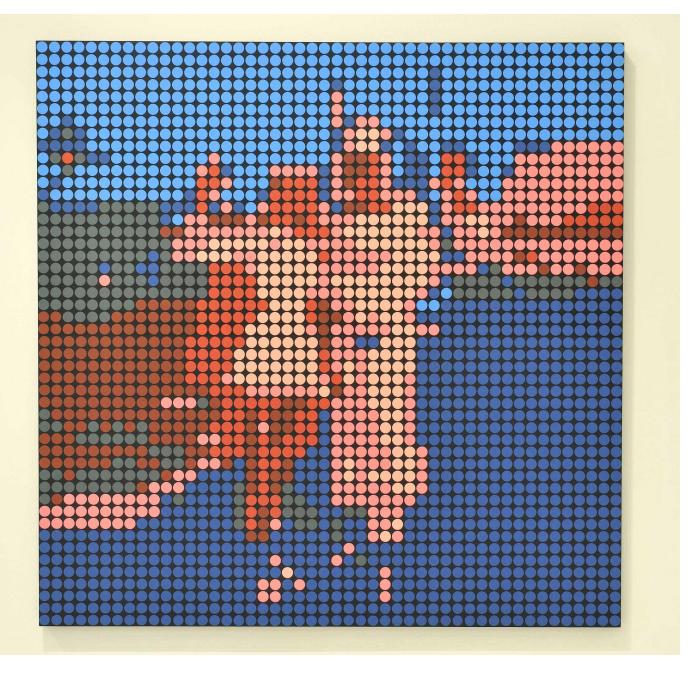


SAMUEL TUPOU, 'Norman Park Station', 2016, silkscreen on PVC. Image reproduced courtesy of the artist and MARS Gallery, Melbourne. Photograph: Al Simm.

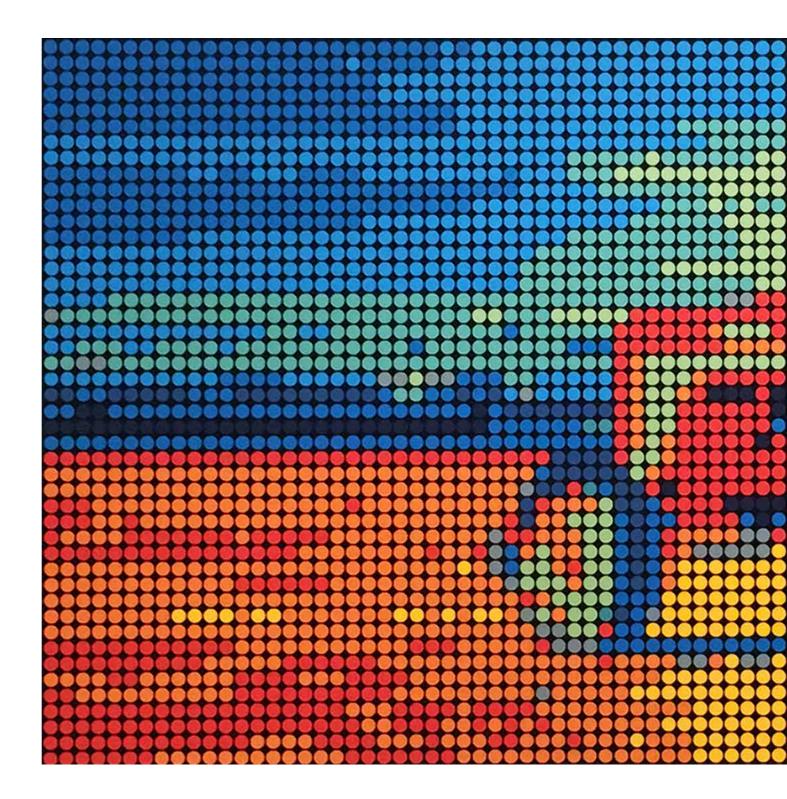
A defining moment for Samuel both personally and artistically came in 1998 with a trip to Tonga with his father and brother. It was during this visit that Samuel was truly first exposed to the immense repertoire of patterning through traditional Tapa (Ngatu) cloth. Samuel describes an overwhelming feeling of reverence and pride in viewing these incredibly detailed highly patterned large-scale cloths and even more importantly a connection to culture that he previously had not experienced. For Samuel it was the discovery of the source of his culture an emotional connection and an empowering vision from where to draw inspiration for his future work.

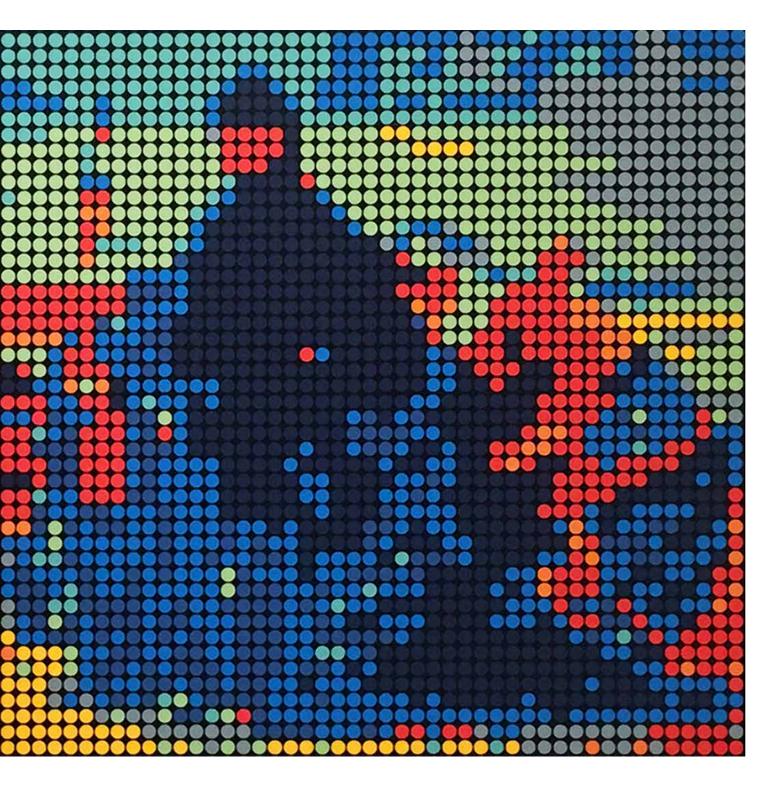
In 'Duplikator' we find Samuel's signature use of vivid colours, pop sensibility, and street art techniques combined with patterns inspired by Ngatu designs. Adapting printmaking techniques such as silkscreen and printing onto layers of Perspex and PVC cut into shapes, his works are multi-layered both in appearance and cultural context. Central to his work are the exploration of themes covering migration, culture clash and loss of connection to culture. In this exhibition Samuel merges these themes, family history, memory and tradition within a modern visual framework, focusing on elements that unite through the use of recurring design motifs and patterning and thus the convergence of cultures.

Edwina Bolger Curator July 2016



SAMUEL TUPOU, 'Tomorrowland Space People', 2016, silkscreen on PVC. Image reproduced courtesy of the artist and MARS Gallery, Melbourne. Photograph: Al Simm.





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