

## MEDIA RELEASE

6 April 2022

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### **New exhibition at Te Pātaka Toi Adam Art Gallery speaks to the charged history, fateful consequences, and future prospects of our bicultural nation**

Te Pātaka Toi Adam Art Gallery's new exhibition *Tēnei Ao Tūroa – This Enduring World* opens on Saturday 9 April. This exhibition features three distinct bodies of work by three photographic artists: Mark Adams, Natalie Robertson (Ngāti Porou) and Chris Corson-Scott.

They have been brought together by Adam Art Gallery director Christina Barton. She anticipates that visitors will see the connections that link the artists: "I am excited to have three such serious and accomplished artists sharing their work in our spaces. I am sure a rich dialogue instigated by their works will ensue."

She notes the many ways these artists are linked. "All three photographers use large-format analogue technology to produce large-scale colour and black and white images of great detail and lush tone. They explore particular sites that have loaded histories that speak of human encounter and occupation and their formational and fraught effects."



*Natalie Robertson, Te Puna o Te Ao Te Huinga and kahikatea trees, Tikapa-a-Hinekopeka III, 2018, digital dye-sublimated print on polyester fabric, aluminium pole, 3750 × 3010 mm, courtesy of the artist.*

A key feature of this presentation is the inclusion of historical imagery and objects to contextualise the artists' images. This produces a rich cultural base for appreciating the visual and material legacies within which their works are embedded.

Though each artist has focused on their own unique subjects and brings their own perspectives to bear, together they deepen our understanding of our complex history, and our shared and separate predicaments.

Natalie Robertson's work is drawn from the exhibition [Tātara E Maru Ana – The Sacred Rain Cape of Waiapu](#), first presented at Tairāwhiti Museum in Gisborne before being restaged at ST PAUL St Gallery at Auckland University of Technology in 2021. Consisting of large-scale hanging photographic banners, colour and black and white photographs, and enlargements of historical imagery, this exhibition offers, in the artist's words, "a record of an ancestral tīpuna landscape as it is today."

Mark Adams' photographs were first shown in [Hinemihi: Te Hokinga – The Return](#) at Auckland's Two Rooms in 2020. The exhibition consists of large-scale colour and black and white photographs Adams took in 2000 of the whare carved by the Ngāti Tararua master-carvers Tene Waitere and Wero Tāroi located on the grounds of Clandon Park in Surrey, England. In the Te Pātaka Toi's new iteration, guest curated by Hamish Coney, Adams' photographs are accompanied by historical photographs of Hinemihi in its original site at Te Wairoa before and after the Tarawera eruption (1886), and other related subjects, together with two carvings by Tene Waitere and Wero Tāroi.

[Chris Corson-Scott](#) is based in Auckland. Adam Art Gallery has worked with Chris to select a range of his large-scale photographs made between 2013 and 2018. These have been shot in locations throughout the North and South Islands and all register the impact of industrial and urban development. Corson-Scott takes an archaeological interest in capturing the remnants of colonial and modern industry, as well as tracking more recent land developments and markers of environmental change. His images often nod to the works of earlier artists, for example Alfred Sharpe and John Kinder, examples of whose work are included in the exhibition.

### **Artists' and curators' introduction, discussion, and tour**

2 pm, Rāhoroi Saturday 9 April 2022  
Te Pātaka Toi Adam Art Gallery

Join curators Christina Barton and Hamish Coney, and artists Natalie Robertson and Chris Corson-Scott, for an introduction, discussion, and tour of the Gallery's latest exhibition.

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## EXHIBITION DETAILS

***Tēnei Ao Tūroa – This Enduring World***  
***Mark Adams, Natalie Robertson, Chris Corson-Scott***  
**Brought together by Christina Barton**  
**9 April–26 June 2022**

### Opening hours

Te Pātaka Toi Adam Art Gallery  
Tuesday–Sunday 11 am–5 pm  
Free entry

For the safety of all during COVID-19 traffic light setting Red, visitors to the Gallery are required to wear face coverings, practise physical distancing, and sanitise as instructed by the Ministry of Health. The Gallery welcomes group visits and to ensure they can safely accommodate you, please let the Gallery know in advance if your group is larger than 10 people. Contact the Gallery Administrator, Ann Gale, [ann.gale@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:ann.gale@vuw.ac.nz) or 04-463 5229.

### Address

Te Pātaka Toi Adam Art Gallery  
Te Herenga Waka–Victoria University of Wellington  
Gate 3, Kelburn Parade

Wellington 6140

**For more information, high resolution images, or to arrange an interview with artists or the curator, contact:**

Kate Lepper, public programmes and communications coordinator, [kate.lepper@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:kate.lepper@vuw.ac.nz) or 04 463 6835

Or Christina Barton, director, [christina.barton@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:christina.barton@vuw.ac.nz) or 04 463 5254 / 027-563 5254

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**University name:** The University's full name is Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington. Where space constraints require our name to be abbreviated, please retain the word 'Wellington' to ensure our location is clear to readers.

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