

Collective statement through public art is a reflection of city's unity

A new artwork being installed at the Arts Centre's Market Square as part of SCAPE Public Art Season 2019 reflects the city's unity.

SCAPE is presenting *Ka mua Ka muri* (2019), by Kazu Nakagawa to the city for Season 2019 – a six-week festival that runs from 5 October and includes the installation of more than a dozen temporary artworks in central Christchurch.

Ideas of harmony, respect, compassion and understanding are central to Season 2019, with Nakagawa's sculpture reflecting a wider New Zealand community that is standing with the people of Christchurch.

A phonetic rendering of a well-known Māori whakataukī that speaks of walking backwards into the future, *Ka mua Ka muri* started with the idea of architecture 100 years ago and what building might look like 100 years in the future.

The artist's conversations with Pacific Environments Architects led him to the idea of origami, creating faceted shapes that echo the natural modular forms repeated in trees, shells and even molecules. Two large open rings lean in, each depending on the other to stay upright.

"Time folds in on itself as we take our past with us into who we become," Nakagawa says.

Nakagawa was strongly affected by the shocking attack on two Christchurch mosques on 15 March 2019, in which 51 people died and many more were injured. He hopes the artwork will offer the people of Christchurch a point of reflection.

"It is a collective statement. Our shoulders touch. They are us. We are them."

In response to the March events, Nakagawa and his wider community want to gift *Ka mua Ka muri* as a permanent artwork to the city. A fundraising campaign that has garnered support from Trish Clark Gallery, Pacific Environments Architects and Sculpture on the Gulf is currently underway for this.

The idea of gifting the artwork came to him while it was installed at Waiheke Island as part of Sculpture on the Gulf 2019.

"I looked at the sculpture that stood in front of me, thinking of people who lost families and friends, imagining they were also looking at this view. I decided (that) regardless of obstacles, I wanted to send *Ka mua Ka muri* to the people of Christchurch."

For more information about supporting *Ka mua Ka muri*, please email gretchen@christie.kiwi.nz or phone 021 275 0664.

Running from 5 October to 16 November, Season 2019 takes the iconic game *Rock : Paper : Scissors* as its starting point. New Zealand's pre-eminent public art festival, it aims to make us think and feel: about what home means, the emotional resonance of materials, and the patterns and rituals that help us make sense of the world.

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Kazu Nakagawa *Ka mua Ka muri* 2019. Image courtesy of the artist and SCAPE Public Art.

About the artist

Kazu Nakagawa was born in Tokyo, moved to New Zealand in 1986 and now lives in Waiheke Island.

He began by studying engineering and navigation and has worked as a product designer, graphic designer and furniture maker.

As an artist, he has exhibited extensively, including recent group exhibitions *Here: Kupe to Cook*, Pataka, Porirua (2019), *Sculpture on the Gulf*, Waiheke Island (2003-2019) and *Carving Water Painting Voice*, New Zealand Maritime Museum, Auckland (2018).

In 2015 his art-integration project for the Waiheke Library, commissioned by Auckland Council's Public Art Fund with Pacific Environments Architects, was awarded the Overall Supreme Award and Commercial Architectural Excellence at the Resene Timber Design Awards.

About the SCAPE Public Art Trust

SCAPE Public Art installs public art in Christchurch all year round, with a focus on the annual public art festival Seasons. SCAPE is the Christchurch expert in the installation of public art, and the SCAPE Public Art Seasons are New Zealand's premier public art events.

Held in Christchurch's central city public spaces and supported through a range of partnerships, the Seasons showcase leading national and international contemporary artists, and provide a springboard for emerging local talent. Artworks in the Seasons are created as a result of close collaboration between art and business. This is a highly regarded model world-wide.

Our Seasons provide an opportunity to focus on the introduction of new artworks while maintaining focus on the impressive base of legacy pieces. www.scapepublicart.org.nz

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