

## SCAPE Public Art Season 2019 Walkway Full of Surprises

Explore the reaches of the Botanic Gardens this spring and you'll encounter two very different artworks along the SCAPE Public Art Season 2019 Walkway.

Sculptural nets are suspended in the tropical environment of Cuningham House, with the installation Chiara Corbelletto's *Hybrid Encounters* (2019). Meanwhile, a stone's throw away at Christ's College, you'll find a sculpture – and mobile app – by Kereama Taepa that is slyly modeled on the iconic arcade game *Space Invaders: A (very) brief history of Aotearoa* (2017).

The SCAPE Public Art Walkway is a cornerstone of Season 2019 – a citywide festival from 5 October to 16 November that features more than a dozen temporary artworks. You're encouraged to weave around the 14 new artworks along with SCAPE's 15 permanent (legacy) pieces, either by using a walkway map to self-guide or by joining a guided tour.

Corbelletto's sculptures are generated by repeating a single component again and again – building up new configurations every time – as she explores the concept of how complexity emerges from simplicity.

By seeking the intersection between art and mathematical thinking, Corbelletto creates beautiful abstractions that make us reconsider the patterns surrounding us. The sculptural nets hanging in Cuningham House echo the bio-architecture of the flora that grows around them.

“Natural forms as small as a molecule and as large as a galaxy share the same organising principles, which can replicate with infinite variation,” she says.

“A key step in the origin of life was the emergence of a molecule that could make copies of itself. Diversity evolves from singularity, small modifications create new adaptations and the drive of evolution increases complexity at every level, from matter to language to culture.”

Over on the Quad at Christ's College, *A (very) brief history of Aotearoa* is both sculpture and an interactive application for iPhones that reimagines our past as a video game. Humorous and pointedly political, it features a hero who bravely fights off invading enemy ships filled with missionaries, the Crown and government – all of whom want to stage a takeover.

Like colonisation, gaming is about strategy, but Taepa emphasises the need for empathy above all else.

“To play the game, you must walk in someone else’s shoes. It is, as the title makes clear, only a partial account of our history – a truth, (but) not necessarily the truth,” he says.

The artwork’s starting point was Taepa's own lack of knowledge of Māori history when he was a student, sparking a desire to understand alternative histories outside the mainstream narrative. It also explores the impact of innovation and technology on cultural development.

“At a moment when we have shifted to a screen-based culture, *A (very) brief history of Aotearoa* grounds the digital in the physical, while simultaneously enabling audiences to take the work home.”

New Zealand’s pre-eminent public art festival, SCAPE Season 2019 takes the iconic game *Rock : Paper : Scissors* as its starting point, featuring artworks that 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.

- SCAPE Public Art Walkway maps are available at the artworks and from a number of central city locations. Download the SCAPE app to take a self-guided audio tour.
- Come along to our free Season Artist Talk series on Sunday 6 October to hear Chiara Corbelletto in conversation with Audrey Baldwin, Ciaran Begley and Kazu Nakagawa. 1pm at Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetū auditorium.

ENDS

[Please refer to high resolution image folder here.](#)



Chiara Corbelletto *Hybrid Encounters* 2019. Image courtesy of the artist and SCAPE Public Art



Kereama Taepa A (*very*) *brief history of Aotearoa* 2017. Image courtesy of the artist and SCAPE Public Art

### About the artists

**Chiara Corbelleto** is an established Italian-New Zealand sculptor with a multi-faceted art career, spanning exhibitions to public commissions and art integrated in architecture.

Her work is held in public collections including Te Papa Tongarewa Museum, Waikato Museum, The Suter Te Aratoi, Dowse Museum and corporate collections including Wallace Arts Trust, Edminston Trust, Westpac, PWC and National Bank.

Her numerous public art commissions include projects for Massey University, Auckland Domain, University of Auckland, AUT University and Auckland Council.

Born in Biella, Italy, Corbelleto is a graduate of Modigliani Art School and University of Milan Architecture School. She lives and works in Aotearoa New Zealand.

**Kereama Taepa** (Te Arawa, Te Āti Awa) received a Masters of Maori Visual Arts from Toioho ki Āpiti, Massey University in Palmerston North and currently teaches at Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology, Rotorua.

Recent public installations include *Whuture Whakairo* at Sculpture on the Gulf, Waiheke Island in 2019 and *Pōhutukawa* for the Tauranga Waterfront in 2018.

In 2016 *A (Very) Brief History of New Zealand* was commissioned for the Four Plinths Sculpture Project in central Wellington. He holds the Supreme Award for the Rotorua Art Awards 2017 and received the Runner Up Award in the National Art Awards 2018. He lives in Tauranga.

**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](http://www.scapepublicart.org.nz)

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