

# Talanoa Mau

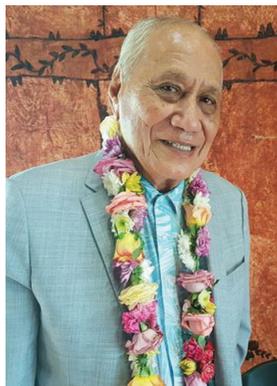
Salā Lemi Ponifasio

Monday 24 and Tuesday 25 February 2020  
at Museum of New Zealand  
Te Papa Tongarewa

New  
Zealand  
Festival

OF THE ARTS

21 Feb – 15 Mar 2020  
Pōneke | Wellington



# Talanoa Mau

Nau mai haere mai ki Te Taurima o Aotearoa. In 2020, artists are taking over the New Zealand Festival of the Arts bringing more creative voices into the conversation. We invited internationally renowned artists Lemi Ponifasio, Laurie Anderson and Bret McKenzie to select a signature series of arts experiences for each week of the Festival. Meet our Guest Curators and the many artists who will join them, for a Festival of the Arts that celebrates honesty, bravery and splendour, and art that inspires conversation.

We are proud to work alongside Lemi Ponifasio in his vision to radically change the way that art is perceived and experienced in Aotearoa. We warmly welcome you to this historic occasion, to Talanoa Mau the first event of its kind for the New Zealand Festival of the Arts.

## New Zealand Festival of the Arts

## A message from Te Papa

Te Papa was founded as a radically new concept in museums, to lead the way and challenge conventional thinking. We are delighted to partner with the New Zealand Festival of the Arts on Lemi Ponifasio's Talanoa Mau and support two days of deep listening and critical discussion on what it means to be human in today's world. Te Papa is committed to courageous conversations and is proud to further our longstanding relationship with the New Zealand Festival of the Arts through this stimulating event.

### Courtney Johnston

(Tumu Whakarae | Chief Executive) and

### Arapata Hakiwai

(Kaihautū)

Partnered by: Thanks to:



### Dates

Mon 24 –  
Tue 25 Feb,  
all day

### Venue

Soundings  
Theatre,  
Te Papa

### Duration

Two days

Latecomers will only be seated during an appropriate break. Taking photographs and using a recording device at any Festival performance are strictly forbidden. Ticket holders consent to be filmed as part of the audience. The information in this programme is correct at the time of publication. The Festival reserves the right to alter, without notice, events, programmes and artists.

Tell us what you think of the show

🐦 📺 📷 @NZFestivaloftheArts #NZFEST festival.nz

# Talanoa Mau, Salā Lemi Ponifasio

Talanoa is a Samoan concept for the practice of speaking openly. It is also a methodology of conflict resolution through discussion and openness, where deeper understandings can emerge. Talanoa is not just about looking for solutions, but a reminder to make space to really listen to one another.

The Samoan word mau expresses the ethos of engagement sought. Mau is not a form of art, teaching, philosophy, or belief system. Mau is a state of clarity and conscious engagement with existence, a truth instantiated, a reality experienced. In this sense, our gathering for Talanoa Mau is about investigating together—with clarity of conscious engagement—the urgent questions about how to be a human in today's world, the current state of our cultures and the arts, and our practices of everyday life.

We are living in a time of existential crisis as a species. Our societies are obscenely stratified and riddled with injustice, our relationships with both the natural world and with one another are fraught and often self-defeating. Our faith in institutions, and even the idea of truth, is under fire—we are in crisis. Some imagine these are problems for science, economics, and politics—problems for others—to solve. They hope we can techno-fix, spend, and policy-make our way out of climate emergency, corporate greed, bigotry and racist violence, blind hatred and crushing despair. But while such solutions are surely needed, they are not enough. The troubles of our times are entangled with culture at an even more profound level. Without cultural solutions, all the science, economics, and politics in the world won't know what kind of a world we need to build.

The dominant cultural frames that tell us how to be human—frames that we are expected to live by today—are threatening not only our diverse local cultural practices, but also our existence as a species, myriad other life forms, and the stability of the planet. We need to look truthfully at who we are, individually, collectively, and as a species, and question the trajectory we are on. We need sincerely to ask whether we are capable of taking responsibility for the mess that this dominant way of being human has made of the world we all must somehow share. Although we may often feel daunted, these times offer myriad avenues of empowerment, if only we are able to see things more clearly, rally together, and offer new visions of how to make a kinder, better world. There is still so much more that we can do with the vast potential of our collective creative energy.

Culture is how we practice our lives as people in society. Culture is both the forms our practices take and the norms that underlie those practices. Rethinking the nature of our cultures, then, is of urgent importance. And just as culture is connected to life practices, art is connected to aesthetic forms and conceptual underpinnings of culture. Art opens up a space that can both reflect and also transform who we are. It can shatter moribund paradigms, reveal new spheres of the actionable, and offer new spaces for imagining and enacting a better world. Art can regenerate the human spirit, and change the way we experience and practice life. Cultural regeneration and art are intimately connected.

The urgency of questioning the foundations of our lives and the patterns that dominate our collective existence on this planet, and of the need for cultural responses, is great. With this urgency, and these broad frames in mind, Talanoa Mau brings together a diverse group of culture-makers, artists, thinkers, and practitioners of various situated, experientially-based lived knowledge systems and cosmologies.

Talanoa Mau opens up a multidisciplinary space for vulnerable dialogues and shared critical exploration of the most urgent questions of our times. Together we can open up new avenues of hope and new modes of being in the world. The work of all the participants at Talanoa Mau speaks to the question of what it means to be human. Participants will speak from the context of their own practices and cultural backgrounds. They will share stories, insights, and experiential knowledge from the worlds that they inhabit and help shape through their work. Their contributions will offer paths for navigating these big questions in the contexts of culture and art in relation to real work, everyday lives, and our communities. Together we can arrive at some sense of where we are as societies, and as a species.

We need to be reminded of the power of imagination, and the empowering role for creativity to play in the process of reclaiming our places in the world, and making space for others more vulnerable. We need everyone engaged in this undertaking of reimagining ourselves—the young, the old, artists and thinkers, leaders, policy-makers and activists, and

everyday folks living their lives. We need all sorts of people engaged in order to create the conditions for real transformation and construct better forms of civilization.

It is imperative we ask again and again: How can we do better in real practical terms in the places where we live together, do our work, and make our art?

Art is a powerful tool for directing insights from past and present towards the task of imagining a more caring, more understanding world. Cultural transformation can happen when we begin making spaces in which we can radically reimagine and re-enact our human existence in the more-than-human world with which we are entangled. We need to talk about who we are and where we are going as communities, as societies, as cultures, as nations, and as creatures belonging to a fraught and fragile world full of necessarily diverse beings and life forms.

Talanoa Mau seeks to offer a forum for exchanges that can initiate and sustain meaningful dialogues, and even long-term relationships. These encounters and conversations are offered out of a deep belief in the power of the arts and cultural engagements to transform and illuminate who we are and how we move through the world—both alone and together, as individuals, as collectivities, and as peoples.

**Lemi Ponifasio**



Lemi Ponifasio

# Schedule

## MONDAY 24 FEBRUARY

Hosted by **Te Ahukaramū Charles Royal**

📍 = Te Papa venue

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08:00 **Registrations open at Te Papa** 📍 Te Papa Level 2

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08:30 **Pōwhiri and welcome** 📍 Through Te Ara a Hine and onto Rongomaraeroa  
Opening speech: **Peter Sellars** 📍 Rongomaraeroa

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9:45 **Refreshments** 📍 Icon

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10:30 **DAY 1, SESSION 1** 📍 Soundings Theatre  
**Courtney Johnston**  
**Dame Anne Salmond**  
**Pania Newton**  
**Jessicoco Hansell aka CoCo Solid**  
**Kara Jackson**  
**Te Kaurinui Parata**  
**Alistair Fraser**

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13:00 **Lunch** 📍 Oceania Room

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14:00 **DAY 1, SESSION 2** 📍 Soundings Theatre  
**Ruby Judson**  
**Watene Moana Campbell**  
**Tāmati Kruger**  
**Kahumako Rāmekā**  
**Pat Snedden**  
**Dr Liana MacDonald**

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15:45 **Refreshments** 📍 Oceania Room

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16:15 **DAY 1, SESSION 3** 📍 Soundings Theatre  
**Chigozie Obioma**  
**Tina Makereti**  
Questions and Discussions

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17:30 **Close of day one** 📍 Soundings Theatre

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17:30 **Own time**

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18:30 **Reception and exhibition preview of MAU: *House of Night and Day* by Lemi Ponifasio. All welcome, refreshments provided.** 📍 Toi Art

## TUESDAY 25 FEBRUARY

Hosted by **Te Ahukaramū Charles Royal**

📍 = Te Papa venue

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|------------------|--|
| 8:45             | <b>Theatre opens</b> (please be seated by 9:00) 📍 Soundings Theatre  |
| 9:00             | <b>DAY 2, SESSION 1</b> 📍 Soundings Theatre<br><b>Le Afioga a le Tama-a-Aiga, His Highness, Tui Atua Tupua Tamasese Ta'isi Tupuola Tufuga Efi</b><br>Vā Moana panel discussion <b>Leali'ifano Dr Albert L Refiti</b> with <b>Lana Lopesi</b> and <b>Emalani Case</b> |
| 11:00            | <b>Refreshments</b> 📍 Oceania Room   |
| 11:30            | <b>DAY 2, SESSION 2</b> 📍 Soundings Theatre<br><i>Art Creation In Conflict Zones</i> panel discussion <b>Golriz Ghahraman MP</b> (facilitator) with <b>Faustin Linyekula</b> , <b>Chiké Frankie Edozien</b> and <b>Neo Muyanga</b>                                   |
| 13:00            | <b>Lunch</b> 📍 Oceania Room  |
| 14:00            | <b>DAY 2, SESSION 3</b> 📍 Soundings Theatre<br><b>Jade Kake</b><br><b>Leali'ifano Dr Albert L Refiti</b><br><b>Hon. Luamanuvao Dame Winnie Laban</b><br><b>Jahra 'Rager' Wasasala</b>  |
| 15:20            | <b>Refreshments</b> 📍 Oceania Room   |
| 15:50 –<br>17:30 | <b>DAY 2, SESSION 4</b> 📍 Soundings Theatre<br>Questions and Discussions<br><b>Lemi Ponifasio / MAU - Upu Taumavae</b><br><b>Closing Karakia</b>   |

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# Bios

## Salā Lemi Ponifasio

### AOTEAROA / NEW ZEALAND

Lemi Ponifasio is renowned for his pioneering work as a director, choreographer and multidisciplinary artist, collaborating with many communities around the world. He has presented his work at prestigious theatres, galleries and arts festivals in more than 30 countries and in contexts such as the Venice Biennale, the Avignon Festival, the Lincoln Center in New York, and the Theatre De La Ville Paris. Lemi Ponifasio is founder of MAU – an international performance platform and creative forum. Lemi holds the traditional Samoan matai title of Salā.

## Te Ahukaramū Charles Royal

### AOTEAROA / NEW ZEALAND

Te Ahukaramū Charles Royal is an independent researcher and consultant on indigenous knowledge (mātauranga Māori). He is also a freelance composer, musician and storyteller and is a passionate advocate for 'indigenous creativity'. He provides research and consultancy services to the public sector and to iwi organisations. He composes music and story for small and large groups and his iwi affiliations are Marutūahu, Ngāti Raukawa and Ngā Puhī.

## Peter Sellars UNITED STATES

Peter Sellars has gained international renown for his groundbreaking and transformative interpretations of artistic masterpieces and for collaborative projects with an extraordinary range of creative artists. He has led major arts festivals, including the 1990 and 1993 Los Angeles Festivals, the 2002 Adelaide Arts Festival, and New Crowned Hope, a month-long festival in Vienna that celebrated Mozart's 250th birth anniversary. He is a Distinguished Professor in the Department of World Arts and Cultures at UCLA, the recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship, the Erasmus Prize for contributions to European culture and is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

## Dame Anne Salmond

### AOTEAROA / NEW ZEALAND

Dame Anne Salmond is a distinguished Professor of Māori Studies and Anthropology at the University of Auckland, and a leading social scientist. She has written a series of prize-winning books about Māori life, European voyaging and cross-cultural encounters in the Pacific that have received much international recognition.

## Pania Newton

### AOTEAROA / NEW ZEALAND

Pania Newton, Ngāpuhi, Waikato, Ngāti Mahuta and Ngāti Maniapoto, is a New Zealand lawyer and activist for Māori land rights. In 2016, Newton and her cousins established the Save Our Unique Landscape Campaign (SOUL) to protect the whenua at Ihumātao in south Auckland from development. As a frontline protector of Ihumātao she has had to step out of her comfort zone and face challenges, all in the name of saving a unique and sacred land, contributing to a better Aotearoa for all.

## Jessicoco Hansell aka Coco Solid

### AOTEAROA / NEW ZEALAND

Hansell is a Māori/Samoan/German artist from Auckland. She heads DIY projects Kuini Qontrol and Equalise My Vocals to amplify women, LGBTQI, underground and decolonising voices in the Pacific. Hansell writes and directs cult family cartoon 'Aroha Bridge', and is part of Piki Films, a stable of Māori/Pasifika screenwriters. Hansell recently undertook a Fulbright Scholarship at the University of Hawai'i, and was named a 2019 Arts Laureate.

## Kara Jackson UNITED STATES

Kara Jackson is the author of *Bloodstone Cowboy*, the 2019 National Youth Poet Laureate and the 2018 Youth Poet Laureate of Chicago. Her work investigates a trail of language that leads from the South to the North. Through a multidisciplinary approach, Jackson attempts to document her lineage of divine womanhood in a country that demands its erasure. Her EP *A Song for Every Chamber of the Heart* is out now.

## **Te Kaurinui Parata**

### **AOTEAROA / NEW ZEALAND**

Manaia te maunga, Pataua me Ngunguru nga awa, Paratene te Manu te marae, Ngati Takapari me Ngati Korora nga hapu, Ngati Wai te iwi, ko Hori Parata me Moea Armstrong oku matua. Te Kaurinui returned from study in Wellington to apprenticeship under his father Hori Parata in mahi taiao, and Te Warihi Hetaraka in whakairo at the Hihiaua Cultural Centre.

## **Alistair Fraser**

### **AOTEAROA / NEW ZEALAND**

Alistair Fraser is a practitioner of ngā taonga pūoro who has been researching, making, performing and composing with these taonga since 1999. Al has woven taonga pūoro into many pioneering projects, and in settings that span jazz and improvised music, ambient music, electroacoustic music, film, dance, Māori music, classical music and the visual arts.

## **Ruby Judson**

### **AOTEAROA / NEW ZEALAND**

Ruby Judson is a 13 year old artist from Mangawhai, Northland. She is passionate about connecting the children of Aotearoa to celebrate their diversity and challenge prejudice. Ruby is working with a team of young people on a project which uses art and music to achieve this goal. She will be presenting her team's project at the New Zealand Institute of Wellbeing and Resilience conference and at the International Future Problem Solving conference in Boston, USA, later this year.

## **Watene Moana Campbell**

### **AOTEAROA / NEW ZEALAND**

Watene Moana Campbell (Ngāti Porou, Ngāti Awa, Ngāti Kahungunu) is currently an 18 year old up and coming law-student, whom recently graduated from Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Ngā Mokopuna. He is hoping to undergo a conjoint degree comprising of an LLB and a BA double majoring in Māori studies and environmental studies.

## **Tāmati Kruger**

### **AOTEAROA / NEW ZEALAND**

Tāmati Kruger, from the Ngāti Koura, Ngāti Rongo and Te Urewera hapū of Tūhoe, is a Māori advocate and social and political analyst who has dedicated his career to the development of his iwi. Tāmati was instrumental in securing the largest Treaty of Waitangi settlement to date for the Central North Island Iwi Collective, and was chief negotiator of the Tūhoe-Te Urewera Treaty of Waitangi Settlement. He is chair of the Te Urewera Board.

## **Kahumako Rāmeka**

### **AOTEAROA / NEW ZEALAND**

Ko Tauhara te maunga  
Ko Taupō-nui-a-Tia te moana  
Ko Tūwharetoa te iwi  
Ko Te Heuheu te tangata  
Ko Ngāti Rauhoto rāua ko Ngāti Tūrangitukua  
ngā hapū  
Ko Te Arawa te waka.

I grew up in a small place called Nukuhau in Taupō, I was homeschooled for most of my schooling life, I grew up fully emerged in Te Ao Māori. My parents gifted me the tools to create a world for myself using Te Ao Maori principles and my love for my culture. I'm working now as a radio host at Te Arawa FM radio station, I've also starred in Hinekura, a short film by Becs Arahanga, and Colonial Combat, a web series by Julian Arahanga. I started with MAU at 16 years of age, and have been a part of many productions.

He kākano ahau i ruia mai i rangiātea.  
Ko Kahumako Rāmeka tōku ingoa.

## **Pat Snedden**

### **AOTEAROA / NEW ZEALAND**

Pat is a corporate director, not-for-profit leader in health and education, and has served on the boards of many organisations. In 2008 he was appointed Chief Crown Negotiator in the Muriwhenua treaty claims for the Far North region. He is Chair of the Manaiakalani Educational Trust which is devoted to accelerating improvement in Māori and Pasifika educational outcomes, and the author of *Pakeha and the Treaty: why it's our Treaty too*.

## **Dr Liana MacDonald**

### **AOTEAROA / NEW ZEALAND**

Dr Liana MacDonald is of Ngāti Kuia, Rangitāne o Wairau and Pākehā descent. She is currently a research fellow for a Marsden project, *He Taonga Te Wareware?: Remembering and Forgetting Difficult Histories in Aotearoa/ New Zealand*. Liana's research interests include theories of racism and whiteness in settler societies, and decolonial approaches to teaching English, History and Geography.

## **Chigozie Obioma NIGERIA**

Chigozie Obioma is a Nigerian writer and assistant professor of Literature and Creative Writing at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. In 2015, he was named one of "100 Global Thinkers" by Foreign Policy magazine. His first and second book, *The Fishermen* and *An Orchestra of Minorities*, were both nominated for the Booker Prize.

## **Tina Makereti**

### **AOTEAROA / NEW ZEALAND**

Tina Makereti is a writer of fiction and essays, author of *The Imaginary Lives of James Pōneke* (2018) and co-editor of *Black Marks on the White Page* (2017), an anthology that celebrates Māori and Pasifika writing. Her story 'Black Milk' won the Commonwealth Writers Short Story Prize, Pacific region, 2016.

## **His Highness Tui Atua Tupua Tamasese Efi SAMOA**

Le Afioga a le Tama-a-Aiga, His Highness, Tui Atua Tupua Tamasese Ta'isi Tupuola Tufuga Efi is recognised internationally as a statesman, philosopher and cultural historian. Tui Atua continues to model dynamic leadership after decades of service to Samoa and the Pacific region, including as Samoa's Head of State from 2007 to 2017. Exploring what he calls Samoa's "indigenous reference", his addresses and scholarly writing are published widely. In 2019 Tui Atua was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters by the University of St Andrews, United Kingdom.

## **Leali'ifano Dr Albert L Refiti**

### **AOTEAROA / NEW ZEALAND**

Albert L Refiti is a Samoan born and raised research leader in the field of Pacific spatial and architectural environment with extensive research and publication in the area supported by his teaching and lecturing for the last 15 years. He is an Associate Professor of Art and Design at Auckland University of Technology, and lead researcher in the 'Vā Moana: space and relationality in Pacific thought and identity', a Marsden funded research project.

## **Lana Lopesi**

### **AOTEAROA / NEW ZEALAND**

Lana Lopesi (Satapuala, Siumu, Pākehā) is an art critic and author of *False Divides*. She was Editor-in-Chief at *The Pantograph Punch*, Founding Editor of #500words and Editor of *Design Assembly*. Lana's writing has featured in a number of magazines, journals and publications. She is a PhD Candidate at Auckland University of Technology, and a researcher for the Vā Moana / Pacific Spaces research cluster.

## **Emalani Case**

### **AOTEAROA / NEW ZEALAND**

Emalani Case is a lecturer in Pacific Studies at Victoria University of Wellington. As a Hawaiian woman, activist, writer and dancer, she is deeply engaged in issues of indigenous rights and representation, dietary colonialism, and environmental and social justice. Her current research focuses on Hawaiian articulations of identity and nationalism, sovereignty, and decolonising indigenous minds and bodies. She is from Waimea, Hawaii.

## **Golriz Ghahraman MP**

### **AOTEAROA / NEW ZEALAND**

Golriz Ghahraman is an Iranian-born New Zealand politician and member of Parliament. She is a former United Nations lawyer, was a child asylum seeker, and became the first refugee elected to New Zealand's Parliament.

## **Faustin Linyekula**

### **DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO**

Faustin Linyekula is a Congolese dancer, choreographer, theatre maker and storyteller. His work addresses the legacy of the troubled and violent history of his country. In 2001 he founded Studios Kabako, which fosters in Kisangani young artists from the continent and works with local communities around sustainability and environment. Linyekula regularly tours in Africa, North & South America and Europe, and recently joined William Kentridge as an associate artist of the 2019 Holland Festival.

## **Chiké Frankie Edozien NIGERIA**

Chiké Frankie Edozien is a Nigerian-American writer and journalist. He is a professor of journalism at New York University and a journalist for the New York Post. Edozien is noted for his 2017 memoir *Lives of Great Men: Living and Loving as an African Gay Man*, which won the Lambda Literary Award in the Gay Memoir/Biography category at the 30th Lambda Literary Awards in 2018.

## **Neo Muyanga SOUTH AFRICA**

Neo Muyanga, born in Soweto, is a composer, musician and librettist. He has a deep knowledge of the role protest music has played in the national liberation struggles of people in India, South Africa, Brazil and Egypt. He has worked as a research affiliate at the University of Cape Town's Drama School and Centre for African Studies, the Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research and the Humanities Research Institute, University of California in Irvine. He is a fellow of the African Leadership Initiative and the Aspen Institute.

## **Jade Kake**

### **AOTEAROA / NEW ZEALAND**

Jade Kake, Ngāpuhi (Ngāti Hau me Te Parawhau), Te Whakātōhea, Te Arawa, is an architectural designer, housing advocate and researcher. She has experience working directly with Māori land trusts and other Māori organisations to realise their aspirations, particularly around papakāinga housing and marae development, and in working with mana whenua groups to express their cultural values and narratives through the design of their physical environments. Jade lives within her home area of Whangārei, where she is leading several projects to support the re-establishment and development of papakāinga communities.

## **Hon. Luamanuvao Dame Winnie Laban AOTEAROA / NEW ZEALAND**

Winnie Laban, DNZM QSO, is a former New Zealand politician. She served as the Member of Parliament for the Mana electorate, representing the Labour Party, and was the Labour Party's spokesperson for Pacific Island Affairs and for interfaith dialogue. Laban is currently Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Pasifika) at Victoria University of Wellington, a role established to provide strategic direction and support for Pasifika students and staff.

## **Jahra Wasasala**

### **AOTEAROA / NEW ZEALAND**

Jahra 'Rager' Wasasala is an award-winning artist and world-builder of Fijian/Euro origin based in Aotearoa. Jahra utilises her skill-sets within performance activation, contemporary dance technique and poetic/voice soundscape as a psychopomp for her shape-shifting and story-telling through her performance work. She is known for her transcending performances, powerful voice and otherworldly physicality, and is currently in development for the new solo activation work 'GOD-HOUSE', commissioned by the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

For full bios please visit:

[www.festival.nz/events/talanoa-mau/talanoa-mau-presenters](http://www.festival.nz/events/talanoa-mau/talanoa-mau-presenters)

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Image: Vincent Pontet

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**21 Feb –  
15 Mar 2020**