

Jimmy James Kouratoras

painter.sculptor.printmaker

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Jimmy James Kouratoras is descended from a long line of artisans weaving together both his Cretan and Māori heritage (Ngati Tiipa, Tainui). His imagination was fired by the surfing, skateboarding and graffiti culture of the 80s and growing up on the marae with his Nan. He spent close to two decades working in the film industry as a scenic artist and his film credits include *Hercules and Xena*, *The Lion*, *The Witch and the Wardrobe*, *Last Samurai*, *Dororo* (Japanese sci-fi) as well as a number of local and international commercials. Since 2012 Kouratoras, an entirely self-taught artist, has focused exclusively on developing his own craft. He has had solo exhibitions in Auckland, Los Angeles, New York, Brisbane, Melbourne and Queenstown. Winner of the People's Choice Award at the Brisbane Contemporary Art Prize (2016) and shortlisted for the National Contemporary Art Award (2017). He has given many public talks collaborating with Auckland Museum, SPLICE and British Council.

Selected exhibitions

- 2020 – When little spirits wander - 312 Hub || Onehunga, Auckland **POSTPONED**
- 2020 – Beijing Biennale – Beijing, China **POSTPONED**
- 2020 – Pūhoro ō mua, Pūhoro ki tua || Exhibition at the Waikato Museum || 23 Nov- 23 Feb
- 2019 – Pūhoro: International Indigenous Gathering – Turangawaewae Marae
- 2019 – Beijing Biennale – Beijing, China
- 2019 – Honolulu Biennale – Honolulu, Hawai'i
- 2019 – Cerebral Palsy Charity Art Auction – Auckland, New Zealand
- 2019 – Solo Exhibition: Pūtahi Wairua: *Where Angels & Ancestors Collide* – Artbay Gallery – Queenstown, New Zealand.
- 2018 – Mapura Studios Charity Art Auction – Auckland, New Zealand (upcoming)
- 2018 – Solo Exhibition: *Our Meeting Place* – Artbay Gallery – Queenstown, New Zealand.
- 2017 – Solo Exhibition: *The Classics* – International collaboration with New York Playwright Glory Kadigan – Auckland, New Zealand.
- 2016 – COLOURS group show – Auckland, New Zealand.
- 2016 – Brisbane Contemporary Art prize – Judith wright gallery of Contemporary Art – Brisbane, Australia. Winner: People's Choice Award
- 2016 – Solo Exhibition: *The Big Picture* – Allpress Gallery – Auckland, New Zealand.
- 2016 – Group Exhibition of Contemporary Māori Artists: *Tangatawhenua* – Corbans Estate – Auckland, New Zealand.
- 2016 – Michael Fowler Center exhibition presenting work to the European Union – Wellington, New Zealand.
- 2015 – GOMA Asia Pacific Triennial Queensland Australia, Presenting work with Savage Klub Exhibition.
- 2015 – Pacific Exhibition – Ora Gallery – Manhattan, USA.
- 2015 – International Group Show – Agora Gallery – Manhattan, USA.

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- 2014 – Solo Exhibition: *Kaitiaki* – Nathan Club Britomart – Auckland, New Zealand.
- 2014 – Solo Exhibition: *Unorthodox* – Allpress Gallery – Melbourne, Australia.
- 2014 – Solo Exhibition: *Introducing Paintings & Prints* – Allpress – Auckland, New Zealand.
- 2013 – Solo Exhibition: *Pou Exhibition* – Saatchi and Saatchi – Auckland, New Zealand.
- 2012 – PouPou Skate Art – Cross St Gallery – Auckland, New Zealand.

Charity functions, fundraisers and school exhibitions

Jimmy is a huge supporter of young people, the arts and Māori creativity. He has generously contributing to Cerebral Palsy's Charity Gala Fundraiser at the end of March 2019 with a range of different paintings to support the charity. He donated *Manu Tane* (120cmx140cm) to the **New Zealand Dance Company's** fundraising gala (2017) to support it's youth development programme and single-handedly raised \$20,000 through the painting. He work has also been used at the **Wairoa Film Festival** (2016) as the festival image and consistently supported a number of different Auckland schools by contributing to their annual gala art shows. He gives back to the community by putting together limited edition calendars every two years at an affordable price so that every New Zealander has a chance to have New Zealand art in their home.

Selected school exhibitions

- 2019 – Mount Albert Grammar Art Show (June) - Auckland, New Zealand
- 2019 – Baradene School Art Show (June) - Auckland, New Zealand
- 2018 – Mount Albert Grammar School Art Show (June) - Auckland, New Zealand
- 2018 – Vauxhall School Exhibition of Fine Arts (June) - Auckland, New Zealand
- 2017 – Mount Albert Grammar School Art Show - Auckland, New Zealand
- 2016 – Mount Albert Grammar School Art Show - Auckland, New Zealand
- 2016 – Auckland Grammar Art House Tour - Auckland, New Zealand
- 2015 – Mount Albert Grammar School Art Show - Auckland, New Zealand
- 2013 – Mount Albert Grammar School Art Show - Auckland, New Zealand.

Public Art

- King's Palace - Department of Education - Bahrain, United Arab Emirates
- Neurological Ward, Starship Hospital - Auckland, New Zealand
- Westpac bank, Britomart - Auckland, New Zealand
- Dr. McKenner's house on T.V series *Shortland Street* - Auckland, New Zealand
- Ponsonby Central - Auckland, New Zealand

Awards

- People's Choice Award at the Brisbane Contemporary Art Prize (2016)
- Shortlisted for the National Contemporary Art Award (2017).

Collaborations/Public Talks

- 2018 - ART SPEAKS - SPLICE NZ and British Council - Auckland City Library - New Zealand
- 2017 - Toi Maori Market for the World Masters - The Cloud - Auckland, New Zealand
- 2016 - Matariki Arts Market - Auckland Museum - Auckland, New Zealand
- 2016 - Student Talk - Auckland University Technology - Auckland, New Zealand
- 2014 - Great Easter Egg Hunt - Christchurch, New Zealand

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