

Banaban arts of the land and the people

Katerina Teaiwa, Maggie Corrie-Kaipati and Yuki Kihara

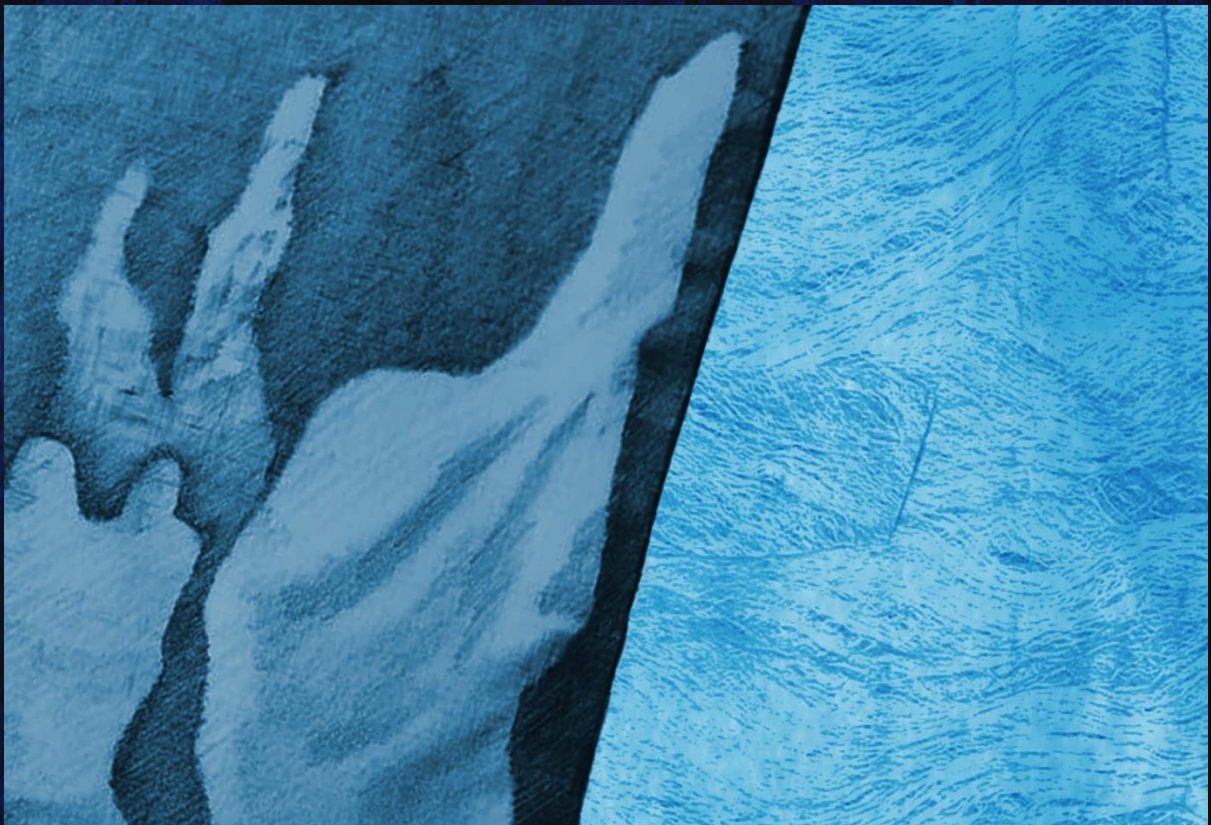


Illustration by Cecelia Faumuina

Author



Katerina Teaiwa

Katerina Teaiwa is of Banaban (Tabiang, Tabwewa - Rabi), I-Kiribati (Tabiteuea), and African American heritage born and raised in Fiji.

She is Professor in Pacific Studies in the School of Culture, History and Language, College of Asia and the Pacific, Australian National University. She is author of *Consuming Ocean Island: stories of people and phosphate from Banaba*, and a dancer and visual artist touring *Project Banaba* curated by Yuki Kihara.

Katerina is currently Vice-President of the Australian Association for Pacific Studies, Chair of the Oceania Working Party of the Australian Dictionary of Biography, and Art Editor of *The Contemporary Pacific: a journal of Island Affairs*. A passionate teacher, she has won several education and outreach awards including the 2021 Australian University Teacher of the Year.



Photo: Render Creative. Courtesy Te Uru Waitakere Contemporary Gallery

Maggie Corrie-Kaipati

Maggie is of Banaban, I-Kiribati and Rotuman heritage with ancestral connections to several European countries. She is the Secretary for the Auckland Banaban Christian Fellowship Group and has been an active member for the past 17 years.

Maggie's greatest passion and interest is in Banaban art works, as a connection to her homeland, her ancestors, and her identity. She believes that through Banaban art forms she has been able to draw on the connection to her past (of growing up in the islands) and her present (as diaspora living in Aotearoa) to strengthen the future (in passing on knowledge to the young generation).

Maggie is working closely with Yuki Kihara and Te Uru Waitākere Contemporary Gallery for the exhibition *Te Kaneati* (5 March – 29 May 2022). Her works are featured in the exhibition together with other Banaban members showcasing a range of works such as weaving, crochet, embroidery / painting pillowcases and beaded costumes and she also dedicates her time to *Te Kaneati* workshops.



Photo: Sarah Hunter

Yuki Kihara

Yuki is an interdisciplinary artist of Japanese and Sāmoan descent whose work seeks to challenge dominant and singular historical narratives by exploring the intersectionality between identity politics, decolonization, and the environment through visual arts, dance, and curatorial practice. In 2019, the Arts Council of New Zealand Toi Aotearoa—the national arts development agency of the Government of New Zealand—appointed her to represent the Aotearoa New Zealand Pavilion at the 59th Venice Biennale in 2022. Kihara has been a curator of Project Banaba by Katerina Teaiwa since its inception in 2017 when it was commissioned by and presented at Carriageworks, Sydney.

Front image caption & credit



Name: Body of the land, body of the people

Maker: Katerina Teaiwa and Canberra-based team

Description: Hessian "phosphate sack" with applique of cotton and calico pinnacles representing the mining and shipment of phosphate lands from Banaba to Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand from 1900-1980.

Credit: Commissioned by Carriageworks, Sydney, 2017.