

Sriwhana Spong

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Sriwhana Spong

Born 1979 in Auckland, New Zealand

Lives and works in Auckland, New Zealand

Sriwhana Spong is an artist of New Zealand and Indonesian descent currently living and working in Auckland. Her early work was an exploration of histories and culture through the lens and traditions of perceived otherness with regards to a Western exoticisation of the East.

Informed by a New Zealand upbringing, estranged from her Balinese heritage, works of this time responded to Spong's position as both an outsider, and ambiguous insider, to question notions of estrangement and belonging through a blend of exoticised images, myths, vague personal memories and popular culture.

These explorations into the nebulous nature of what it might mean to be between places has led to more recent works that directly explore the body and its relationship to history, place and time. Spong has developed a specific interest in dance and frequently employs aspects of this medium and its own associated histories for its ephemeral nature, carrying with it both a sense of loss and potency of the present. Working with dancers and choreographers to re-imagine lost ballets through the fragments of images, rumours and stories left behind, these works seek out the gaps between definitive histories and questionable biographies; a space where the subjective, the serendipitous and the illogical become welcome partners.

Spong's work shifts between film, sculpture and collage to form a practice that through its conversation and collaboration with dance, takes on the disciplines instability, variation and ability to be constantly altered as an attempt to explore what it might mean to be never on time but always within the present continuous of 'in' time. Her materials inspired by Balinese offerings made daily from everyday materials — assemblages that are not made to last into tomorrow, repeated gestures that incorporate formal patterns with informal additions of whatever is at hand — create sculptural gestures that allude to a tenuity happy to fall apart at any moment.

EDUCATION

2013-2015

Master of Fine Art, Piet Zwart Institute, Rotterdam

1998-2001

Bachelor of Fine Arts, Elam School of Fine Arts, University of Auckland

AWARDS

2012

Walters Prize Finalist, Auckland Art Gallery, Auckland

2005

Winner Trust Waikato National Contemporary Art Award

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

2017

having-seen-snake, Michael Lett, Auckland (forthcoming) (solo)

The Plum Tree, Headlands Sculpture on the Golf, Auckland (forthcoming) (solo)

2016

Oceanic feeling with Maria Taniguchi, ICA Singapore; Govett Brewster (forthcoming) (solo)

Mother's Tongue, Neu Kirche, Pittsburg (solo)

Im Wintergarten, DAAD Gallery, Berlin (solo)

FOURNUS/, Gythio, Greece (group)

2015

24 Frames per Second Carriageworks, Sydney (group)

High Rise Piet Zwart Institute, Rotterdam (group)

Sights and Sounds The Jewish Museum, New York (group)

2014

If I had it I would give it to you Upominki, Rotterdam, The Netherlands (group)
Fin Utopian Slums, Melbourne (group)

2013

Taking form, with Agatha Gothe-Snape, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia (group)
Video Arte Australia y Nueva Zelanda, Matucana 100, Santiago, Chile (group)
Zizhiqu-Autonomous Regions Guandong Times Museum, Guangzhou (group)
Between Being and Doing, Utopian Slums, Melbourne (group)

2012

Lethe-wards Neuer Kunstverein Wien, Vienna (solo)
Actions and Remains Terrace Sculpture Commission, Auckland Art Gallery, Auckland (solo)
The Walters Prize, Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tamaki, Auckland (solo)
18th Biennale of Sydney: all our relations, Cocatoo Island, Sydney, Australia (solo)
Sriwhana Spong, Neuer Kunstverein, Vienna (solo)
The Purple Blotter, Michael Lett, Auckland (solo)
Raiding the Archives, Bangkok Experimental Film Festival 6, Thai Film Archive, Bangkok (film screening)
All Our Relations 18th Biennale of Sydney, Sydney (group)

2011

Rencontres Internationales, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France (film screening)
Prospect, New Zealand Art Now, City Gallery, Wellington (group)
Christian Jankowski, Richard Maloy, Sriwhana Spong, Sue Crockford Gallery, Auckland (group)
Collecting Contemporary, Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington (group)
Fanta Silver and Song, Gertrude Contemporary, Melbourne, Australia (solo)
Toi Aotearoa Auckland Art Gallery, Auckland (group)

2010

Dancing Celestial, Physics Room, Christchurch (solo)
Scene Shifts, Bonniers Konsthall, Stockholm, Sweden (group)
Exhibitions, Project Arts Centre, Dublin, Ireland (group)
Discreet Objects, Utopian Slumps, Melbourne, Australia (group)
Lethe-wards, Arts Statements, Art Basel (solo)
Channeling Mr B, Michael Lett, Auckland (solo)

2009

Torn and Untroubled Y3k, Melbourne (solo)
New World Records, Sutton Gallery, Melbourne, Australia (group)
For Keeps, Sampling Recent Acquisitions 2006-2009, Auckland Art Gallery, Auckland (group)
Tactical Support: Curator's Choice, Tracy Williams Ltd, New York (group)

2008

Myth and Practice, The NZ Film Archive, Wellington (solo)
Solar Midnight, Anna Miles Gallery, Auckland (solo)
Backdrop, Newcall, Auckland (solo)
Moving Light, with Jonathan Jones, Fremantle Arts Centre, Perth (two-person)
Open Studios International Studio and Curatorial Programme, New York (group)
Limbo Land, Anna Miles Gallery, Auckland (group)
Ethnographies of the Future, BRIC Rotunda Gallery, New York (group)
Group Show, 1301PE, Los Angeles (group)

2007

Beetlejuice, Artspace, Sydney (solo)
Regarding Fear and Hope, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia (group)
Twone, in collaboration with Kate Newby, Physics Room, Christchurch (two-person)
Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Wolf, Te Tuhi, Auckland (group)
Turbulence 3RD Auckland Triennale, Artspace, Auckland (solo presentation)

2006

Don't Misbehave, SCAPE Biennale, Christchurch (solo presentation)
Satellite, Shanghai, China (group)
Candlestick Park, Anna Miles Gallery, Auckland (solo)
A Tale of Two Cities, Busan Biennale, Korea (solo presentation)

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Twin Oak Drive, 2x2 Contemporary Projects, City Gallery, Wellington (group)
Local Transit, Artspace, Auckland (group)
Single Currency, VCA, Melbourne, Australia (group)
Earthly Delight, Anna Miles Gallery, Auckland (group)
An Unlikely Return to the Legend of Origins, Sparwasser HQ, Berlin (group)

2005

Cultural Futures, St Paul St Gallery, Auckland (group)
Muttnik, Anna Miles Gallery, Auckland (solo)
Waikato Contemporary Art Award, Hamilton (group)
World Famous in New Zealand, CCAS, Canberra, Australia (group)

2004

C'est La Vie ma Cherie, Anna Miles Gallery, Auckland (solo)
Break Shift, Govett Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth (group)
Somersault, Anna Miles Gallery, Auckland (group)
ACP Video Show, Scott Donovan Gallery, Sydney (group)