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**Gallery Two**

**Ane Tonga, Grills**

**Opening Friday 30 May at 5.30pm with a performance by Sesilia Pusiaki, P.O.T. Productions**

**On exhibition 30 May – 28 June 2014**

Grills is part of an ongoing photographic investigation that explores nifo koula (gold teeth) a popular and relatively new form of Tongan body adornment. Gold used for nifo koula are often second hand jewellery pieces such as rings, earrings or necklaces melted down to create gold covers. For many recipients gold is sourced from heirlooms such as wedding rings that infuse gold teeth with layers of meaning and memory. The process of recycling is a metaphorical process where values, memories and genealogies are refashioned into new forms of body adornment.

This new gendered series examines nifo koula as symbols of Tongan beauty faka’ ofo’ ofa (Tongan beauty). In Tongan culture beauty, faka’ ofo’ ofa, goes beyond the surface of physical attributes and is deeply embedded in social and moral values that uphold and emphasize family, kinship, church and a nationalist ideology based on a constitutional monarchy. Grills explores faka’ofa’ofa through the eyes and voices of Tongan women living in New Zealand revealing the changing notions of beauty.

**Gallery One**

**History in the Taking: 40 Years of PhotoForum**

**6-28 June 2014**

**Opening: Friday 6 June 2014, at 5.30pm with opening speaker Rob Garrett, art consultant and early PhotoForum exhibitor.**

Founded on 12 December 1973 as an incorporated society to promote and sponsor the use of photography as a means of communication and expression, PhotoForum is best known through the eponymous magazine which was first published in February 1974. Membership peaked at 250 in the 1980s, and now numbers around 150 photographers. Founding editor and PhotoForum director John Turner lives in China, and is still involved in the publications issued under the organisation’s imprint.

Past and present members include Megan Jenkinson, Robin Morrison, Rhondda Bosworth, Laurence Aberhart, Mary Macpherson, Max Oettli, Jenny Tomlin and Peter Black. This exhibition, curated by current PhotoForum Director Geoffrey Short and Sam Hartnett of the Centre for Art Studies at the University of Auckland, is a tour through the organisation’s archives. At the end of the exhibition period, the Rim Books publication, *PhotoForum at 40: Counterculture, Clusters and Debate in New Zealand*, written by Nina Seja will be launched.

**Lower Foyer**

**Mary Macpherson, Bent: Using New Zealand’s trees**

**6-28 June 2014**

**Opening: Friday 6 June 2014, at 5.30pm with Mary Macpherson as opening speaker.**

Mary Macpherson started photographing trees in about 2011, while completing her *Old New World* series. Being a person who walks down the road and sees plants as others see houses or cars or people, it seemed to her to be an exciting idea to photograph trees. What lay beneath the surface of the idea?

Working with botanical ecologist Jonathan Kennett has made her aware of the commodity value of trees, and how cultural choices have determined what trees are grown in Aotearoa/New Zealand.

**PUBLIC PROGRAMMES**

**1pm, Saturday 7 June**

Sister Speak: Ane Tonga in conversation with her sister Nina Tonga, Curator Pacific Cultures, Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, in the exhibition Grills.

**2pm**

The history of the Wellington branch of PhotoForum is outlined by Mary Macpherson, with a guided tour of her exhibition *Bent*.

**1pm, Saturday 14 June**

PhotoForum founder John B. Turner, PhotoForum member Haru Sameshima and current Director Geoffrey Short discuss the history of the organisation with Ron Brownson, Senior Curator (New Zealand and Pacific) Auckland Art Gallery and author of the book *PhotoForum at 40: Counterculture, Clusters and Debate in New Zealand*, Nina Seja.

**1pm, Saturday 21 June**

Athol McCredie, Photography Curator, Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, will discuss the collection of photographs on display in Gallery One for the exhibition *History in the Taking: 40 Years of PhotoForum.*

**1pm, Saturday 28 June**

PhotoForum member Rhondda Bosworth discusses her photographic work in the exhibition.

**2pm,** Launch of the book *PhotoForum at 40 Counterculture, Clusters and Debate in New Zealand* commissioned by PhotoForum Director Geoffrey H. Short and Jan Young on behalf of PhotoForum Incorporated and written by photographic historian Nina Seja.

**PUBLICATIONS:**

**In conjunction with the exhibition *History in the Taking: 40 Years of PhotoForum*, the Gus Fisher Gallery is proud to host the launch of the anniversary history of the organisation. Written by Nina Seja, this 275 page book has been published as PhotoForum issue 83 by Rim Books.**

**To order, please visit the website www.rimbooks.com**

**THE GUS FISHER GALLERY** **GALLERY HOURS**
The Kenneth Myers Centre Tuesday - Friday 10am - 5pm
74 Shortland St Saturday 12pm - 4pm
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