



**ŌTARA SCORPIONS RUGBY LEAGUE AND SPORTS CLUB**

# SCORPIONS FOR LIFE

## Mural Project 2021-2022

A collective mural event involving 27 local artists from South Auckland

Proudly funded by the Creative New Zealand Arts Grant 2021

Blessing and Launch  
Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2022



Cover Photograph: Ōtara Scorpions Premier players Tau Suiki and Uila Aiolupou show their Scorpions tattoos

pp.3-4	Uelese Vavae
pp.5-6	Faleata Ualesi
pp.7-8	Jesse Gibson
pp.9-10	TJ Buford
p.11-12	Kat Iosia
p.13.	Mose Eteuati Loa Toetu'u 20 SEHC Art students
p.14.	Iokapeta Magele-Suamasi

## Uelese Vavae

Preferred: Lese  
SAMOA Sala'ilua, Savai'i  
Born in Fiji, lives in Manurewa, South Auckland  
Quals: Bachelor Fine Arts (Whitecliffe Art School 2016)

### SCORPIONS FOR LIFE:

Murals - Changing Rooms

### ARTIST DESCRIPTION:

Multidisciplinary  
Painting, Portraiture, Digital Design, Video, Sculpture

### PREFERRED MEDIUM:

All kinds of paint. Portraiture has been a common focus of my works.

### WHAT IS ART TO YOU?

A creative outlet to express yourself

### WHAT MOTIVATES YOU AS AN ARTIST?

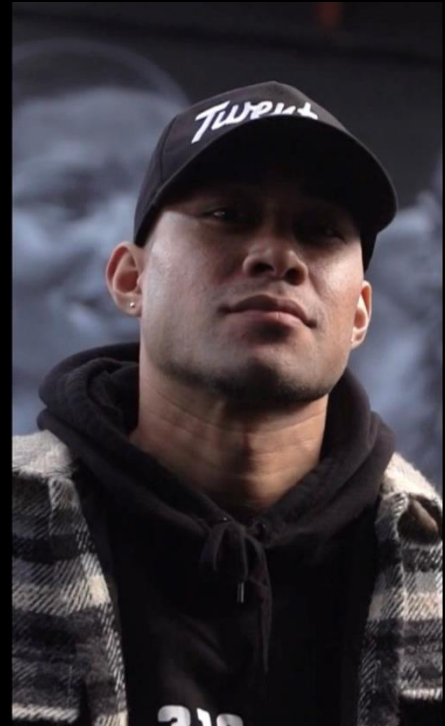
To serve in the community, tell the stories of my people

### WHEN AND HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU WANTED TO BE AN ARTIST?

Since I can remember I have always known in the back of my mind that I was bound to be an artist.

### HOW DID YOU GROW IN YOUR INTEREST IN ART?

At a young age, my parents, teachers, and other supervisors noticed I had some artistic ability. From their support my interest was founded.



INSTAGRAM: @articulate\_uv



*Faletua series of works, Sauniga Exhibition, Artspace Aotearoa, Contemporary Art Gallery (2017)*

**WHO WERE YOUR ROLE MODELS, ARTISTS YOU ADMIRED AND SUPPORTERS OF YOUR ARTISTIC JOURNEY?**

I still admire the old masters from the renaissance period. Kehinde Wiley, Lisa Reihana, Owen Dippie are contemporary artists that come to mind. My biggest supporters are my family.

**WHAT WERE YOUR BIGGEST CHALLENGES IN YOUR ART JOURNEY?**

Finding my voice in the art world. I'm still on the journey of figuring that out.

**WHAT ARE YOU INTERESTED IN EXPLORING IN THE FUTURE AS AN ARTIST?**

To dive back into a more anthropological approach to my art.

**WHAT IS YOUR ADVICE TO OTHER ARTISTS IN SOUTH AUCKLAND?**

To realise that they have a voice that needs to be heard 🦀



**Uelese Vavae: The artist behind South Auckland's iconic murals**  
Source: TP+ Tagata Pasifika, 2021.



## Faleata Ualesi

### SAMOA

Born in Ōtara, South Auckland. Lives in Sandringham.

Self-taught Artist

Quals: Masters in Education Leadership (1<sup>st</sup> class Hons),

Dip. Tching English, BA Lit.

### SCORPIONS FOR LIFE:

Mural - East Admin area

### ARTIST DESCRIPTION:

Modern, Contemporary, Pāsifika. I explore, experiment, and develop Pacific Island motifs and patterns in my own modern and individual style.

### PREFERRED MEDIUM:

Acrylic paint and markers on canvas and heavy cartridge.

### WHAT IS ART TO YOU?

Art to me now is an outlet that allows me to express who I am as a Samoan living in NZ and what has shaped me into the man that I am today. Art is also a stress release for me that gives me a sense of joy, peace and happiness.

### WHAT MOTIVATES YOU AS AN ARTIST?

Always developing my style and never settling.

The need to step out of my comfort zone sometimes in search of a new style and a freedom to create something different from what I have done before. I am motivated by becoming better at my craft and always honing and developing my skill and talent. Seeing what other artists both new and old are doing also acts as motivation for me as an artist.

### WHEN AND HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU WANTED TO BE AN ARTIST?

I always said that if money was not an issue and I didn't have to work, that I would be an artist. So, art has always been something I was passionate about. But as I got older and busy doing other things, Art took a back seat in my life. After many years of doodling and sketching Pāsifika patterns and designs in 2018, I bought an A3 sketch pad and started drawing in the style that I am known for now.

### HOW DID YOU GROW IN YOUR INTEREST IN ART?

I have always been interested in art from a young age. At High School, I took art every year from 3<sup>rd</sup> Form to 7<sup>th</sup> Form as well as 7<sup>th</sup> Form Art History. More recently, social media platforms and the internet have meant that I have been able to see a huge range and variety of art and artists from around the world. I plan to see more local art exhibitions once Covid restrictions are lifted.



FB: F. Ualesi Artworks | INSTA: @hous372

**WHO WERE YOUR ROLE MODELS, ARTISTS YOU ADMIRE AND SUPPORTERS OF YOUR ARTISTIC JOURNEY?**

Fatu Akelei Feu'u, Michel Tuffrey, Sopolomalama Filipe Tohi, Andy Leleisi'uao and John Pule. Raymond Sagapolutele, Iokapeta Magele-Suamasi and Benjamin Work are three artists and friends who I admire very much as artists and just good people in general. All three have been so generous with their time, advice, and contacts in supporting me in my journey as an artist.

**WHAT WERE YOUR BIGGEST CHALLENGES IN YOUR ART JOURNEY?**

Always pushing myself in terms of style and techniques. Not allowing myself to be too comfortable in what I'm doing. When I'm creating, the first person I need to please is myself and if I can do that - then other people will like it. This allows me to stay true to myself and not create for others approval.

**WHAT ARE YOU INTERESTED IN EXPLORING IN THE FUTURE AS AN ARTIST?**

I am really interested in creating murals in public spaces where it is free for anyone to view. I am also interested in exploring and creating artworks on a large scale.

**WHAT IS YOUR ADVICE TO OTHER ARTISTS IN SOUTH AUCKLAND?**

Find your unique style and stay true to yourself!  
Work hard at honing and developing your talent and skills.  
Be consistent and develop a good work ethic.  
I work on the principle of "Use it or Lose it!" 🦀



"If I don't create art, I feel like something is wrong and I need to create something to put things right within myself and my world."

## Jesse Paul Anotonio Gibson

Preferred: Jesse or Jess  
SAMOA Malie, Lefaga, Apia, Sapapali'i,  
Born and resides: Ōtara, South Auckland  
Quals: Bach. Performing & Screen Arts. Major. Screen  
(UNITEC)

### SCORPIONS FOR LIFE:

Videographer

### ARTIST STYLE:

Writer/Filmmaker

### PREFERRED MEDIUM:

Filmmaking, highlighting intimate details – visual and spoke – that humanise the subjects on screen. *Improv-heavy* in both production and performance.

### WHAT IS ART TO YOU?

The use of mediums to convey ideas, be it simple or complex

### WHAT MOTIVATES YOU AS AN ARTIST?

The meticulous planning and the feeling of completing a project to the best of ones abilities is its own reward. I enjoy the process or planning, crafting, and creating from start to finish. It really is its own different kind of fun.

### WHEN AND HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU WANTED TO BE AN ARTIST?

I've always been one of those kids who were into art and writing in primary, so to answer the question I'd say, "at a very young age". It was my go-to answer to "what do you want to be when you grow up?"

### HOW DID YOU GROW IN YOUR INTEREST IN ART?

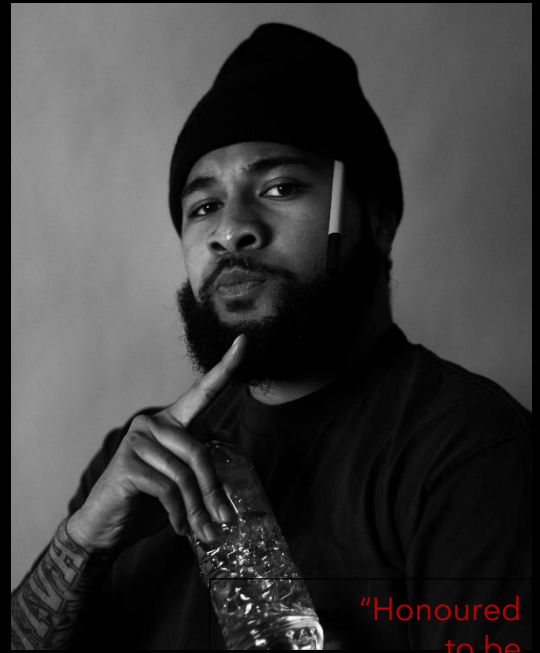
In Primary School, we had an art class. In Intermediate I attended clubhouse 274. In High School I took music/art. From Primary to this present day, I dive into books and media surrounding my current interests in visual aesthetics and historical/societal themes.

### WHO WERE YOUR ROLE MODELS, ARTISTS YOU ADMIRED AND SUPPORTERS OF YOUR ARTISTIC JOURNEY?

My role model is my old man. He's not an artist but has a hardworking mindset. I've always admired classical Russian authors in terms of their storytelling and the legacy of antiquity personalities. I have an Aunty who is my biggest supporter for my art.

### WHAT WERE YOUR BIGGEST CHALLENGES IN YOUR ART JOURNEY?

Gear and crew. Film making is labour and resource intensive. To compensate, I've had to learn fundamentals to production, shooting and editing all on old rundown gear. I'm grateful for it though, as it's acted sort of like resistance training but for my art. On the few occasions where I've been granted a crew and/or gear, it's never been anything too overbearing thanks to already understanding fundamentals.



Vimeo + Instagram: @cocoshakim

"Honoured to be on board with such an important project on the history of our community"

**WHAT ARE YOU INTERESTED IN EXPLORING IN THE FUTURE AS AN ARTIST?**

Leadership roles amongst other practitioners working towards a final goal. Maybe create work around/inspired by Pāsifika history as well as work on the unique diaspora of Pacific peoples around the world in the modern age. And a cartoon series.

**WHAT IS YOUR ADVICE TO OTHER ARTISTS IN SOUTH AUCKLAND?**

With only mud and stone they built the pyramids...YOU have the tools to communicate with the world! Go forth and make something big because nothings is impossible 🦂



**Screenshots:**

**'Meeting Hector'**

**Produced by TJ  
Filmed by Jesse  
Gibson**

**Source: Vimeo**





## Tony Wesley Junior Buford

Preferred: TJ  
USA, SAMOA  
Born in Inglewood, LA, USA  
Lives in Ōtara, South Auckland  
Quals: Bach. Art & Design, major. Digital Design (AUT)

### SCORPIONS FOR LIFE:

Social Media Content Creator

### ARTIST DESCRIPTION:

Digital Producer and Content Creator

### PREFERRED MEDIUM:

Skilled in a couple of mediums but more recently I've been drawn to music and digital visuals.

### WHAT IS ART TO YOU?

Art is form of expression as well as an outlet. Being able to create something from nothing is the closest you can get to God.

### WHAT MOTIVATES YOU AS AN ARTIST?

My family and the stigma that South Auckland finds itself being shown as. I love to combat the false representation of how this area is shown. I love to share the creativity found in such a unique place.

### WHEN AND HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU WANTED TO BE AN ARTIST?

From a young age I always had a pen in my hand. Whether it was to be used to draw, write or make beats by tapping it on a desk - it was a natural outlet for me, and I had a lot of family around me with a similar vice.

### HOW DID YOU GROW IN YOUR INTEREST IN ART?

I feel it was the competition amongst my peers and close friends on wanting to be the best at so-and-so. The competitive spirit really made me want to up my game and eventually it grew into what it is today.

### WHO WERE YOUR ROLE MODELS, ARTISTS YOU ADMIRE AND SUPPORTERS OF YOUR ARTISTIC JOURNEY?

My family mainly are who I look to as role models. They are not perfect but at the end of the day it takes a village to raise a child. My main role model is my mother though - strongest person I know. As for artists I admire, I meet new ones every other week and they all come from either South Auckland or NZ. I can't get more authentic than being inspired by the community around you.

### WHAT WERE YOUR BIGGEST CHALLENGES IN YOUR ART JOURNEY?

It would have to be my struggle with identity even to this day. I find it really hard trying to make art that can represent myself and my cultures when I truly don't fully know who I am. But it's a journey.



LinkedIn + FB: TJ Buford | Insta + Tik Tok: @creationkit

**WHAT ARE YOU INTERESTED IN EXPLORING IN THE FUTURE AS AN ARTIST?**

I'm interested in exploring Emerging Technology that could innovate the mediums of the art world

**WHAT IS YOUR ADVICE TO OTHER ARTISTS IN SOUTH AUCKLAND?**

Try to beat your best everyday - Your real competition is yourself! The rest of Auckland will see you regardless of where you come from



"My Art style is Ōtara, the boiling pot of cultures and influences found in this area - I call home..."

Source: NZ Herald, VIVA  
Photography: Geoffrey Matautia

## Katrina Iosia Sipeli

Preferred: Katrina Iosia  
Niue, Aotearoa

Born in Auckland  
Lives in Waitakere

Quals: Bach. VA & Des., Dip. Tchg UoA, Dip. Design AUT  
*Connected to Ōtara Scorpions through her father Steven Sipeli - Ōtarian & played in one of the original founding Ōtara Football Rugby League Teams 1970s.*



### **SCORPIONS FOR LIFE:**

Augmented Reality Developer

### **ARTIST DESCRIPTION:**

Multidisciplinary artist, Digital Creator, AR designer + developer

### **PREFERRED MEDIUM:**

Technological mediums VR, through the process of making as a maker and physically sculpting helps process a lot of my designs

### **WHAT IS ART TO YOU?**

3d sculpting, modelling and 3d animation. Also physically sculpting using unconventional materials

### **WHAT MOTIVATES YOU AS AN ARTIST?**

Being able to create an experience through materiality, setting the scene for storytelling.

### **WHEN AND HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU WANTED TO BE AN ARTIST?**

Throughout my childhood I have always been creative so it was inevitable that I would choose a career in the creative arts.

### **HOW DID YOU GROW IN YOUR INTEREST IN ART?**

I have always been fascinated in cultural practices of weaving the mechanical repetitiveness of the making itself and process. My interest intersects with materialism and materiality in the work through hands on arts to now digital materials and how we react and respond to art through engagement of our senses. It's the process of the making as opposed to the outcome.

### **WHO WERE YOUR ROLE MODELS, ARTISTS YOU ADMIRE AND SUPPORTERS OF YOUR ARTISTIC JOURNEY?**

I have admired so many artists throughout my journey that spread across a vast variety of genres; Frida Kahlo, Louise Bourgeois, Lynda Benglis, Bram Bogart, Nathan Prouty - supportive of my artistic journey will definitely be my family especially my Dad

### **WHAT WERE YOUR BIGGEST CHALLENGES IN YOUR ART JOURNEY?**

The biggest challenge at the moment is having creative technology be more embraced here in the arts. Galleries need to upskill and learn about new technological mediums in order to move forward or be left behind.

**WHAT ARE YOU INTERESTED IN EXPLORING IN THE FUTURE AS AN ARTIST?**

I am still in the beginning stages of emerging into the arts, I am wanting to explore creative technology in the wider world and the collective experiences of collaborating with other artists I like to learn more about the industry.

**WHAT IS YOUR ADVICE TO OTHER ARTISTS IN SOUTH AUCKLAND?**

Be adaptable and remain open minded. Learn about other practices and as much artists working with other mediums other then yours. Your work will evolve the more you learn and how you use their skills and knowledge to be adaptable in your own practice. Most importantly Don't let anyone tell you YOU CAN'T! 🦋



IG LIVE:  
Katrina Iosia



MONDAY, AUGUST 23 @ 6:30 PM EST

CAD AOF DIGITAL ART MONTH

 cadaf\_art

Curated by @cadaf\_art @studioaware

Presented by @cadaf\_art

Source: #DigitalArtMonth

“I have always been fascinated in cultural practices of weaving and the mechanical repetitiveness of the making itself and process.





## Mose Eteuati

Head of Art, Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate, Senior School

## Loa Toetu'u

Art Teacher, Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate, Senior School

## Names TBC

Students, Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate, Senior School

### SCORPIONS FOR LIFE:

- Posts - Main Entrance side
- Boardroom/Main Hall Operable Wall

Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate Senior School (SEHC) Art Department will activate student artists to contribute to the mural and achieve NCEA credits at the same time.

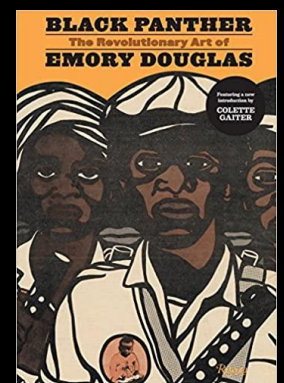
SEHC has a strong legacy with Ōtara Scorpions and were a part of the **Scorpions For Life Mural Project** in 2012. Their mural was a finalist in the Resene Mural Masterpiece Competition in NZ in the Schools category.



### Image Right:

2012 Scorpions For Life Lead Artists enjoy a visit to Ōtara Scorpions Clubrooms by Emory Douglas Graphic Artist and Cultural Minister of the Black Panther Party, USA.

(L-R) Emory Douglas Joe Lane Loa Toetu'u and Mose Eteuati



## Iokapeta Magele-Suamasi

Preferred: Ioka  
Samoa, Lufilufi (Dad), Satalo, Tutuila (Mum)

Born in Auckland  
Lives in Ōtara

Quals: Bach. Dip. Design, MA Arts Management (1st Hons) | Masters in Technological Futures - Tech Futures, Mind Lab NZ | Digital Imaging & Preservation of Tangible Culture Heritage - Haddassah Academic College, Jerusalem, Israel  
Foundation in Data Analytics, Google, USA

**SCORPIONS FOR LIFE:**  
Project Manager

**ARTIST DESCRIPTION:**  
Multidisciplinary Artist, Arts Management

**PREFERRED MEDIUM:**  
What I can afford at the time.

**WHAT IS ART TO YOU?**  
A happy place for me and other outliers.

**WHAT MOTIVATES YOU AS AN ARTIST?**  
Articulating my voice and platforming other artists to be seen and heard.

**WHEN AND HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU WANTED TO BE AN ARTIST?**  
When I was drawing sausage people alongside other kids drawing stick figures. A pivotal moment was in Primer 3 (Year 3) when our class had to draw lions, and I drew a wavy brown mane and my classmates were lining up asking me to draw their pictures because they couldn't. I knew then that I saw things differently and that I could 'make' and 'interpret' what I saw and thought through art... in a 6/7 year old way of thinking.

**HOW DID YOU GROW IN YOUR INTEREST IN ART?**  
Practice, reflection, reading, watching, hanging out with other artists but mostly trusting God and stepping out in faith when I was fearful.

**WHO WERE YOUR ROLE MODELS, ARTISTS YOU ADMIRED AND SUPPORTERS OF YOUR ARTISTIC JOURNEY?**  
My inner sanctum of family and friends. Too many artists - list is still growing.

**WHAT WERE YOUR BIGGEST CHALLENGES IN YOUR ART JOURNEY?**  
Facing off with established hierarchies + paradigms. Still is.

**WHAT ARE YOU INTERESTED IN EXPLORING IN THE FUTURE AS AN ARTIST?**  
The Metaverse and Mirrorworld psychology.

**WHAT IS YOUR ADVICE TO OTHER ARTISTS IN SOUTH AUCKLAND?**  
Being from South Auckland is a superpower. Never doubt those instincts 🦄

