

## Kōwhai Residency Artist Statement:

I'm filled with excitement to be embarking on this odyssey of the Kōwhai Residency. I'm curious about what I will discover, observe and experience, how Tokyo's intersection of culture, art and technology will influence and expand my practice from a philosophical, visual, technical and artistic point of view. I'm very much looking forward to discovering exhibitions and galleries with immersive, photo-real experiences as well as looking at traditional forms of art including painting, and performance-based works.

I'm excited about what form and processes will inspire and guide me towards the body of work I will make as a result of the residency. I'm interested in collaborating with others and exchanging ideas to expand my creative boundaries, in both how I document and respond to the environment and the experiences around me via my photographic skillset and tools. Themes of identity and relationship to nature, through photographic constructions utilising Butō and Kabuki 5 act structure will be my anchor for creative response.

I feel privileged to have the chance to gain a deeper understanding of Japan's Art History, artworks and artists from a photographic perspective. I'm extremely grateful to be selected and to have the opportunity cultivate a relationship with the Tokyo Institute of Photography, Auckland Festival of Photography and Asia New Zealand Foundation - thank you for making this creative reality.

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## Artist Bio

Jenna Eriksen is a multidisciplinary artist and filmmaker from Aotearoa, New Zealand. Eriksen's photographic practice and sensibilities incorporate multiple creative modalities to form rich cinematic scenes across the medium of still images, video art and films. Exploring depictions of tragedy, destruction and rebirth, Jenna is fascinated with landscape photography, creating poetic imagery with a reflective perspective. Eriksen's work attempts to capture photographic memory, the embodiment of vulnerability, the act of succumbing to external forces. With a photographic painterly style and the use of large scale canvases Jenna's work investigates trauma and relationship to space - to extended portholes we might recognise within ourselves.

Jenna holds a Master of Fine Arts in the Creative Practice of Film, from Victoria University, Wellington, New Zealand. A proud Centre for Projection Art Alumni Artist. Jenna has exhibited internationally across, Australia, USA, and New Zealand. Currently residing in Te Whanganui-a-Tara, Wellington, they are in development on a number of projects including "Looking Back At You" a portrait series, and "Anemone" a Sci-Fi immersive experience.