

*"When you take a flower in your hand and really look at it, it's your world for the moment. I want to give that world to someone else. Most people in the city rush around so, they have no time to look at a flower. I want them to see it whether they want to or not."*

\*Georgia O'Keefe / New York Post Interview, 1946

BCA Gallery proudly presents a Sylvia Marsters' project for VOLTA NY 2014, *New Yorkers Don't See Flowers*. Influenced by a 1946 *New York Post* interview with artist Georgia O'Keefe, Marster's nine panel installation of original flower paintings will deliver an eruption of colour, form and dimension within the VOLTA milieu.

Marster's statement is delivered via her compelling composition of absorbing colour contrasts and detailed structure; the flowers themselves seem to leap directly out at the viewer.

Recollecting photographer Alexander Liberman's impressions of a 'serene' vase of flowers amongst the chaos within Augusto Giacometti's Paris studio in 1950, it is Marsters' intent to convey that sense of psychic relief. This notion is reinforced when considering Marster's up-bringing in working class suburbs of Auckland, New Zealand where she bore witness to the harsh economic realities of the 1980's and suffered the loss of a parent.

Undertaking formal studies with art tutor Lois McIvor (McIvor herself was a student of artist Colin McCahon), Marsters' passion for flowers intensified, her canvases taking on increasing detail and aspect.

It is no surprise that the sublime beauty of Marster's flowers so easily engage your attention, to offer (if ever so briefly) a chance to re-focus and re-frame our daily outlook and perhaps question what is significant and not so significant in our multifarious reality.

Marsters' states; 'I want to take New Yorkers by surprise.' Given the detail and presentation of her flower installation for VOLTA, she may well do that.

2015 **Pirianga Toto 15**, Fresh Gallery; 500 Cook Islands Soldiers, travelling group exhibition, New Zealand, Rarotonga.

2014 **The VOLTA Show**, Armory Arts Week, 82 Mercer Street, NYC;

2013 **Pirianga Toto 13**, Fresh Gallery/Auckland  
**Celebration**, The Art Studio/Rarotonga

2012 **Island Fever**, BCA Gallery – Rarotonga

**Pacific Showcase**, The Cloud – Auckland – New Zealand

**Beachcomber  
Contemporary  
Art**

**Voyagers**, Waiheke Community Art Gallery

- 2011 **This is not a Vitrine** Waikato Whare Toanga – Hamilton  
**Resilience** Bowen House, Parliament buildings-Wellington  
**Kia Ora Aus Aotearoa** Ziegel Oh Lac, Zurich – Switzerland  
**Metamorphis** BCA Gallery – Rarotonga
- 2010 **Putiputi - The Flower in Contemporary Art** Hastings City Art Gallery  
**Flora, Koloa, Kap Kap** Okai Oceanik Art Gallery, Calder and Lawson Gallery-Waikato University Hamilton
- 2009 **Pacific Paradise** The Poi Room, Newmarket - Auckland  
**Welcome Home** Waiheke Community Gallery  
**5 Women, 5 Journeys** Exhibitions Gallery - Wellington  
**Shades of Summer** Matakana design and Art Gallery  
**Riptide** Contemporary Pacific Art curated by Giles Peterson for Okai Oceanik Gallery @ SkyCity Hotel
- 2008 **Flat/White Black Pearl** Curated by Jim Vivieare - Tautai Contemporary PacificArts Trust /Te Karanga gallery  
**Crosscurrents** Matakana design and Art Gallery  
**Paradise** Reef Gallery/Auckland
- 2007 **Crosscurrents** Matakana design and Art Gallery  
**Pacific Rhythms** Waiheke Community Art Gallery  
**Botanica** Morgan Street Gallery  
**Artists on Broadway** Mercedes Coutts showroom/Morgan Street Gallery
- 2006 **New Zealand's Favourite Artists** Book Launch exhibition - Fishers Fine Arts Gallery, Auckland.  
**Frangipani Lush** The Edge – Aotea Centre/Auckland  
**Inter>Islands** Waiheke Community Art Gallery  
**Artists on Broadway** Mercedes Benz showroom/Morgan Street Gallery  
**Vaka Eiva** The Art Studio/Rarotonga  
**Carnival of Colours** The Art Studio/Rarotonga  
**Pacifica** Morgan Street Gallery
- 2005 **The Art of Adornment** Pataka Museum/Wellington  
**Genetic Pasifika** ArtStation/Auckland  
**Womens Work** The Edge – Aotea Centre/Auckland  
**Auckland to Rarotonga** Morgan Street Gallery  
**Found** Curated by Dr Carole Shephard, Morgan Street Gallery
- 2004 **Sons and Daughters of Polynesia** Uxbridge Gallery/Howick  
**Artists on Broadway** Mercedes Coutts showroom/Morgan Street Gallery  
**Flourish** Morgan Street Gallery
- 2003 **Summer Hanging** Grantham Gallery  
**O'ora Te Moenga** Beachcomber Gallery/Rarotonga

**Beachcomber  
Contemporary  
Art**

- 2002 **Body Parts** Grantham Gallery  
**10<sup>th</sup> birthday Celebration** Morgan Street Gallery
- 2001 **Matou Atua – We Are** The Edge – Aotea Centre/Tautai Pacific Arts Trust  
**Pacific Reflections** Morgan Street Gallery  
**Winter Selection** Morgan Street Gallery
- 2000 **Ko ai au? Who am I?** Aotea Centre/Tautai Contemporary Pacific Arts Trust  
**Archipelago** Morgan Street Gallery  
**Fresh Horizons** Tautai Contemporary Pacific Arts Trust  
**Winter Selection** Morgan Street Gallery  
**Walk in the Park** Morgan Street Gallery
- 1999 **First Birthday Celebration** Adele Dallimore Gallery  
**Water, water everywhere** Morgan Street Gallery
- 1998 **Exploring Duality** Adele Dallimore Gallery  
**Testing Traditions** Aotea Centre/Tautai Contemporary Pacific Arts Trust  
**Paringa Ou** Cook Islands National Museum/Fiji Museum/Fishers Gallery-New Zealand
- 1994 **Telecom Regional Art Awards** Finalist - Auckland War Memorial Museum

**Solo Exhibitions**

- 2013 **Island Fever** BCA Gallery
- 2007 **Te Manea O Rarotonga** Reef Gallery
- 2004 **Te Manea O Rarotonga** The Art Studio
- 2003 **Te Ruperupe O Toku Ipukarea** National Museum Rarotonga  
**Pacific Blooms** Morgan Street Gallery
- 2002 **Pacifically Yours** Morgan Street Gallery

**Charity, Fundraising Exhibitions and Contributions**

- 2011 Kings College Art Sale Kings College
- 2010 Cook Islands Health Initiative Art Auction
- 2009 Vauxhall School Wakatere Boat Club  
Fred Hollows Foundation
- 2008 Vauxhall School Wakatere Boat Club
- 2007 Carnival of Music Matakana Music Charitable Trust  
Rainbow Youth Trust Morgan Street Gallery

**Beachcomber  
Contemporary  
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- 2003 Volunteers Services Abroad The Pacific Forum – Town Hall Auckland
- 2002 Summer Hanging Chiaroscuro Gallery
- 2001 Summer Hanging NZ Aids Foundation Chiaroscuro Gallery
- 1998 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Friends of Epsom Girls Grammar School Art Auction

**Sylvia Marsters Biography**

**Education**

- 1997 Contemporary Pacific Art** @ Elam Summer School – Fatu Feu'u
- 1994-6 Oil painting** Artstation – Lois McIvor
- 1994 Intaglio printing** Elam Summer School – Jenny Dolezel
- History of Art** Continuing education/Auckland University – T.J. McNamara
- 1993 Screen printing** Artstation
- 1992 Illustration** Whitecliffe Art School
- 1979-80 Fashion design** NZ School of Fashion design/Auckland
- 1978** University Entrance Qualification/New Zealand

**Professional experience**

**1998+ Fine Artist**

**Representation**

- Adele Dallimore Gallery 1998-2002
  - Morgan Street Gallery 1999-2008
  - The Art Studio/Rarotonga 2003-12
  - Matakana Art and design Gallery 2005-9
  - Okai Oceanik Art Gallery 2006-12
- 1994-6** Secondary school Art teacher -Seventh-day-Adventist High School  
**1987+** Self-employed – pattern making, designing and manufacture garments

**Residencies**

- 2012** BCA Gallery Invitational Residence
- 2003** Pacific Arts Committee Artist in Residence

**Extra-Curricular**

- 2008 Pacific Beat Street** Featured Artist
- 2002 Pasifika Festival** Painting demonstration for Tautai Pacific Arts Trust
- Westinghouse** Collaboration– Artwork for product concept

**Public Collections**

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs-New Zealand
- Pacific Trade and Investment
- Hillside Medical Centre/Auckland

**Selected Publications**

- **Sovereignty, Law and Capital in the Age of Globalization** – Kevin Sobel-Read PHD Philosophy Duke University 2011
- **Island Residencies** - Katherine Higgins PHD Art History Auckland University 2010
- **New Zealand's Favourite Artists** - Denis Robinson 2005
- **True Colours of Islands** NZ Herald July 10 2003 – Linda Herrick

**Beachcomber  
Contemporary  
Art**

- **Careers Bloom in receptive City** NZ Herald – Arts on Monday 2002