



**The University of Fiji**  
(An Entity of Arya Pratinidhi Sabha of Fiji)



The University of Fiji Fine Art Gallery opened just 6 months ago to the public but already it is creating waves in the national and international art world with its avant garde and challenging art expression.

The aim of the UniFiji Fine Art Gallery is to nurture new innovative minds towards a new frontier of Pacific art skills and, most importantly, to provide the best creative platform for senior artists. We can test the artists' skills to take the bold initiative to depict and express a reality that can transform the world and awareness.

The aim is to uphold environmental and cultural values, human rights and freedom to express. We have created the University's Fine Art Gallery to give artists freedom of expression in their own creative platform, and provide them with an opportunity to voice their story bravely on reality.

The University of Fiji thanks the fine artists who has made this aim possible at the Brave New World Exhibition. The Exhibition will continue until the new year.

## OVERVIEW

'Brave new world' is ironically a new frontier where new Millennium artists can tell a story on social issues.

This is a period in history where there's many changes in society, healthcare market, global warming, technology and for now conflict which has led to poverty.

## Featuring artists

### Carson Young

### Anare Somumu



*Brave new world is a bold quest to address through art, issues that are not normally discussed. It is an opportunity to dare common norms in society.*

Art has never been a choice for me, it is my heartbeat, and it is a calling that I will cherish forever. Anare Somumu is one of Fiji's most influential and highly respected artists. He was born in 1971 and hails from Lakeba, Saqani, Cakaudrove, a province in the northern part of Fiji. Anare is self-taught and began his art career in 1991, as a children's book illustrator, for Fiji's Curriculum Development unit, a task that spanned 15 years. He was also contracted for 3 years to illustrate and help develop visual aids for UNICEF's Infant Feeding Program in the Pacific. Anare is an award winning artist and draws his inspiration from the environment, his strong belief in God and in the preservation of the Fijian i-Taukei identity. Having represented Fiji to various art festivals around the Pacific, Anare regards his participation in the 7th Beijing International Art Biennale as the greatest highlight of his art career to date

### Waqa Vuidreketi

My Identity is who I am and it influences the way I paint. I carry that with me everywhere I go.

Waqa Vuidreketi is an Indigenous Fijian artist who lives in Lomanikoro, Rewa and was born in Suva. He believes that Art is Individualistic, Creative, Expressive and being Original. The self-taught artist has practical experience in various forms of art from weaving, firing of Fijian pottery, drawing ink on paper, screen printing, tie and dye using natural dyes, making homemade paper, photography, installation and painting. His works are predominantly painting in mixed media. Waga has been exploring art installations. His Group Installation Exhibition Works were shown at the Fiji Museum, (2009), Climate Change exhibition in 2011(USP, Oceania Centre for Creative Art and Writing) and at World Expo 2010, in the Fiji Pavilion, Shanghai, China.



Waqa studied Graphic Designs at the Fiji National University in 2012. He has attended Art workshops and

training conducted under the supervision of various international artists such as Niue Born and the Auckland, New Zealand based artist John Pule. Waqa has been exhibiting since 2009 and had his first solo art exhibition in Suva Fiji in 2014.

He has participated and exhibited in local, regional and International arts festivals.

Waqa is a core member of the Waisiliva Arts Initiative,(WAI) a charitable Trust set up to encourage and raise awareness on Contemporary Arts in Fiji.

For more information and enquiries, please contact the artist direct

Email: [wvuidreketi@gmail.com](mailto:wvuidreketi@gmail.com)

My work and my materials are from my natural resources which is a tribute to my work on Brave New World.

This I have to explore and to show a new dimension of my work creating awareness on my surroundings as global warming affects my natural surroundings.

## Mason James Lee



Mason James Lee is of Chinese and Fijian heritage and is one of Fiji's artists. Mason learnt art at a young age and is self-taught. Mason was part of the Oceania Centre for Arts and Culture at the University of the South Pacific where he has been resident since 1999 till 2007 where he had worked on some of his techniques and explored different mediums until he felt confident. Mason has been exhibiting his work since 2000 till today. His first Solo was in 2002 at the Oceania Centre for Arts and Culture. Lee attributes his predominantly red palette to the way "these colours represent the burning passion that I have within me to paint".

Mason enjoys art very much and often compares it to the revelation of the unseen world. The exploration of different techniques allow him to become more and more familiar with this world and dare to translate in colour and patterns some tormented and heavily patterned seas. His paintings offer to the eyes of the viewer a journey through his rich symbolic imagination.

### MAJOR EXHIBITIONS:

- Sights and Sound Exhibition, Guangdong Museum of Fine Arts, Guangzhou, China, 2016
- 13<sup>th</sup> Pacific Arts Festival, Guam, 2016
- Melanesian Arts Festival, Port Moresby, PNG, 2015
- Tuvata Exhibition, Tuvata Gallery (Opening), Fiji Museum, 2015
- Elements of Nature Exhibition, Halle 50 Gallery, Munich, Germany, 2014.
- Kudru 2 Exhibition, Fiji Arts Club Playhouse, Suva, 2013.
- Secret Exhibition, OCAC, University of the South Pacific, 2012.
- Kudru Exhibition, iCrave Bristo, Suva, 2011.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Melanesian Arts Festival, Noumea, New Caledonia, 2010.
- Exhibition at Okai Oceania, Reef Gallery, Auckland, NZ, 2010.
- Juxta Pacific Exhibition, Reedsburg Art Gallery, Department of Art History, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA, 2009.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Diplomat International Art Exhibition, Sheraton, Denarau Island, Fiji, 2009.
- Pacific Storms Exhibitions, Bunderburg Regional Art Gallery, Queensland, Australia, 2009.
- 10<sup>th</sup> Pacific Arts Festival, Pagopago American Samoa, 2008.
- Melanesian Arts Festival, Suva, Fiji, 2006.
- October Gallery, London, United Kingdom, 2006.
- Travelling Exhibitions, French Polynesia, 2006.
- Red Wave Group Exhibition, James Harvey Gallery, Balmain, Sydney, Australia, 2000

COLLECTIONS:

- Professor Epeli Hau'ofa, Suva Fiji.
- British High Commission, Suva, Fiji.
- Patrick Prodiscoll, Auckland, New Zealand.
- Luc Ezquiergo, Tahiti.
- Oceania Centre for Arts and Culture, USP.