URSULA CHRISTEL C.V.

Showing Work (Exhibitions & collaborative projects)

2026

- Shelley Vitali & Artist's Trading Cards – Art Centre Helensville, 11th – 21st Nov
- The 4th One Hour International Short Film Festival (OHISFF), 18 Sept. 20 films, 9 countries. https://sonjavank.com/ohisff, Quartair, Toussaintkade 55, The Hague, NL.
- *Kaipara Coast Sculpture Garden Exhibition 2026:* - Dec 2025 - Dec 2027. 'The Matariki Media Food House - Te Pataka Ao Pāpāho Matariki', by Sen McGlinn, Ursula Christel, Cle Tukuitonga, Sonja van Kerkhoff
- *Ways of Being: Celebrating Inclusion:* an inclusive poetry publication featuring poets and visual artists from the Rodney District.

2025

- *Creative Convergence 2025* - Co-ordinated RICI's inclusive arts festival, 1 - 5 Dec, Warkworth, NZ
- *Te Ara / The Passage* - 5 Oct - 5 Dec 2025, Quest Art Space, Whangarei, Aotearoa New Zealand
- Curated by Sonja van Kerkhof
- *Kaipara Coast Sculpture Garden Exhibition 2025:* - opened Dec 2024 - Dec 2025
- 'Old Media House - Te Whare Ao Pāpāho', by Sen McGlinn, Ursula Christel, Cle Tukuitonga, Sonja van Kerkhoff

2024

- *Creative Convergence 2024* - Co-ordinated RICI's inclusive arts festival, 2 - 6 Dec, Warkworth, NZ
- *On Display Global,* 3rd Dec (for International Day of Persons with Disabilities) - human sculpture installation performed at Warkworth wharf, NZ
- *Kaipara Coast Sculpture Garden Exhibition 2025:* - opened Dec 2024.
- 'Old Media House - Te Whare Ao Pāpāho', by Sen McGlinn, Ursula Christel, Cle Tukuitonga, Sonja van Kerkhoff
- *When I was young - Kua hua te marama*, [time as a thing of the past or as cycles of completions]
- at Quest Art Space, 27 Sept -2 Nov; 58 Bank Street, Whangārei, Aotearoa | New Zealand. Curated by Sonja van Kerkhoff
- *Spotlight on Sculpture 2024:* 03 July - 28 July. Invited exhibitors. Estuary Arts Centre, 214b HBC Highway, Orewa/Auckland
- *Mā Te Kākano | Potential :* 7 - 27 April Quest Art Space, 58 Bank Street, Whangārei, Aotearoa | New Zealand. Curated by Sonja van Kerkhoff
- *'Old to New'* - coordinator for Warkworth Museum displays & demos, 3 - 11 Feb, Mahurangi Artist Studio Trail 2024
- *Why does this matter* - Procter Library foyer, 8 - 22 Jan; Kerikeri, Aotearoa | New Zealand, curated by Sonja van Kerkhoff

2023

- *ísos,* New Zealand Portrait Gallery Te Pūkenga Whakaata (entry foyer), Wellington. Mahurangi Artists Network blog/Serendipity

- *The unshackled image / Te whakaahua whakawātea*, Quest Art Space, Whangārei. 13 Nov - 17 Dec
  Artworks on detachment, stepping back, taking a break, taking another direction, in which the image or metaphor is the main message on the themes of alternative ways of seeing. Curated by Sonja van Kerkhoff
- *Historical Cement Works 3D Model*, at Wilson Cement Works Exhibition, Warkworth & District Museum, Nov 1st >

2022

- *Take Care / Tiakina:* 15 Jan - 5 March. Papakura Art Gallery. Curated by Sonja van Kerkhoff. See Catalogue
- *Right Ascension:* June 23 - August 7. Represented by Mokopōpaki, Auckland; for Matariki at The Arts House Trust, Pah Homestead
- *Predator Free New Zealand 2050* (PFNZ2050): 05 Sep - 02 Oct at Estuary Arts Centre, Orewa. Curated by Valerie Cuthbert
- *Predator Free New Zealand 2050* (PFNZ2050): 22 Oct - 14 Nov at Auckland Botanic Gardens, Manurewa. Curated by Valerie Cuthbert
- *Roman Mitch: Red Teddy,* Curated by Mokopōpaki. Roman Mitch (with Marcel Tautahi, Ngaroma Natalia, Mokopōpaki, Penelope Sue, Rangitauninihi, Ursula Christel, and Yllwbro), 25 Sep - 13 Nov, at Te Tuhi Centre For The Arts, Auckland

2021

- *Take Care / E Tiaki* - an International cross-cultural Project and Exhibition. Curated by Sonja van Kerkhoff. See Projects.
- Exhibition at artHAUS, 228 Ōrākei Rd, Auckland | Tāmaki Makaurau, Aotearoa | New Zealand
- *Where the Seabirds Go (the Overwintering Project)* - curated group show, Estuary Arts Centre, Orewa. See Projects

2020

- *Chess* - Ursula Christel & Roman Mitch. Collaborative exhibition at Mokopōpaki, Ground Floor, 454 Karangahape Road, Auckland. *C*atalogue link
- *Manners of Speaking | Te Pūkoro o Tāne*; Geoff Wilson Gallery, Whangarei. Over 50 works in diverse media on themes of Proverbs and Sayings, by artists based in Aotearoa and beyond, curated by Sonja van Kerkhoff with 3rd year NorthTec year students.
- Video footage of the show, here. Review: Connecting Art in a time of Crisis: New Zealand –The Netherlands. Online Catalogue, here
- *Ko rātou, ko tātou | On Otherness and Us-ness;* NorthArt Gallery, Auckland. Curated by Salama Moata McNamara and Sonja van Kerkhoff. Paying homage to the Aotearoa | New Zealand Muslim community after the horror of the Christchurch Massacre on March 15, 2019.
- "Some works are aesthetic responses to the Christchurch Mosque massacre, while others are recontexualisations in relation to the Qur'an and the diverse cultures and histories of Islamic worlds. The curation positions work by contemporary artists and craft makers in multi-layered dialogues with an Islamic space." Catalogue link

2019

- *HĀTEPE;* organised by Roman Mitch. Group exhibition at Mokopōpaki, Auckland. (Hātepe. v.i. Proceed in an orderly manner, follow in regular sequence. Algorithm). Event announcement here. Catalogue here.

- *War and Peace;* Metropolis Museum, 116 Symonds Street, Grafton. Exhibition combining contemporary visual arts, sculpture, photography and poetry by NZ and international artists, to commemorate 100 years since the year after conclusion of World War I.
- *The Overwintering Project*; Estuary Arts Centre, Orewa. International art project to bring visibility to migratory shorebirds and their diminishing habitats - our most endangered group of birds. See Projects

2018

- *Mother Love: He Oha nā Te Whaea* ; Solo exhibition at Mokopōpaki, Ground Floor, 454 Karangahape Road, Auckland
- Exhibition catalogue / Press release here.
- artsdiary.co.nz: SEPTEMBER 2018 Compact Coverage Part Two

2017

- *The Tomorrow People: re-imagining the future differently*; curated by Christina Barton, Stephen Cleland, Simon Gennard - Adam Art Gallery, Wellington. Participated in 'Flowers of the Field III' - a collaborative installation by Yllwbro
- *Korekore Whakapiri* ; group exhibition at Mokopōpaki, Auckland.
- *Other Perspectives;* selected group show in the Brown Room, Mokopōpaki, Auckland. Catalogue here.

2016

- *New Perspectives*; Artspace, Auckland; curated by Artspace NZ and Simon Denny. Represented Yllwbro (anonymous sibling duo) and participated in 'Flowers of the Field I' - a collaborative wall installation. More here.

2015:

- Photographer & artist assistant at Sculpture by the Sea, Denmark.

Sharing Knowledge (speaker / discussion panels)

2024

- *The 'ART' of Inclusion*: Creative Convergence Speakers event, a Rodney Inclusive Communities Inc.(RICI) inclusive arts initiative - at Warkworth Library

2018

- *Culture Matters Symposium: Women in the Arts;* Art History Society, University of Auckland, Engineering Building, Neon Foyer.
- *Culture Matters: Accessing the Arts* seeks to celebrate diversity and inclusivity in our GLAM sector (Galleries, Libraries, Archives, Museums) and raise questions of development and accessibility in public and participatory spaces.
- *Electric Night, Artweek Auckland 2018,* at Mokopōpaki - speaking to *Mother Love: He Oha nā Te Whaea*

2017

- *Improbable Futures* forum at the Pyramid Club, Wellington - part of The Adam Art Gallery public programme for *The Tomorrow People*. To share perspectives on Yllwbro and Mokopopaki on the theme of Post-institutional Practices: New Collaborations.
- *Creativity* - Discussion panel: AGM Estuary Art Centre Trust, Orewa

2016

- Represented Yllwbro at the *New Perspectives* exhibition at Artspace, Auckland. Participated in floor talks, educational activities and public panel discussions for Artweek Auckland 2016

Shaping Spaces (curatorial projects & events)

2025

- *CREATIVE CONVERGENCE 2025*; 1 - 5 Dec. A RICI inclusive arts initiative; a week-long inclusive arts festival in Pop in venues around Warkworth.

2024

- *CREATIVE CONVERGENCE 2024*; 2 - 6 Dec. A RICI inclusive arts initiative; a week-long inclusive arts festival in Pop in venues around Warkworth.

2015

- *Transformation*; curated the interactive, multi-media, doco-exhibition on the history of the Estuary Arts Centre, Tui Room, Estuary Arts Centre, Orewa.

2008

- *Soul Expressions*, curated and exhibited in group show in Main Gallery, Estuary Art Centre, Orewa, Auckland
- *Sense-ational Art PLEASE TOUCH*, curated and participated in the interactive, sensory art exhibition, in Kowhai Room, Estuary Art Centre, Orewa
- *Rock & Roll*; curated the group exhibition and facilitated an interactive piano-painting ‘improvisation’; Estuary Art Centre, Orewa

2005

- *Rodney Rocks*! Curated and participated in a group show of artists from the Rodney District, at PumpHouse Gallery, Takapuna
- 2004
- "*11*", curated Hungry Creek Art and Craft School Graduates Exhibition; at The Edge, Aotea Centre, Auckland

Publications

2026: *Ways of Being: Celebrating Inclusion:* an inclusive poetry publication featuring poets and visual artists from the Rodney District.

2022: *Right ascension / Ursula Christel.*

2021: *Mix & Stir:* New Outlooks on Contemporary Art from Global Perspectives. Essay by Sonja van Kerkhoff - 'Mutability'. Ursula Christel referenced, pg 261

2020: *Chess / Ursula Christel and Roman Mitch.*

2018: *Mother love - He Oha nā Te Whaea / Ursula Christel.*

2013: *Abstract Figure: Gill Gatfield*, Editor & essay author, photography where credited, published by Kikorangi Press, 2013. Book launch event at Spark HQ, 167 Victoria Street West, Auckland - for the International Sculpture Symposium 2013

2006-2011: Senior Researcher/Editor, Management Team for Celebrate Art educational resources (for Australia and New Zealand). Published by Integrated Education Ltd. Author, photographer and assistant layout designer for:

- *Exploring Drawing: Looking at Contemporary Drawing*, 2011 (University of Canterbury Library)
- *Animals in Contemporary Art*, 2010
- *Vehicles in Contemporary Art*, 2010
- *Text in Contemporary Art*, 2009
- *Buildings in Contemporary Art*, 2008
- *Landforms in Contemporary Art*; 2008 (University of Otago Library)
- *Aspects of Fire in Contemporary Art*, 2008
- *Working with Clay*, 2008

2009: '*Art in Education: Creative Programmes to motivate students*'- article in SchoolNews educators' magazine.

Education / Courses

2026

- NZSL Level 1; Level 2

2024

- French Knitting sculpture workshop; Jeff Thomson & Bev Goodwin
- Fused Glass workshop; Julie Beaumont
- Earthbuilding workshop; Guenther Andraschko

2023

- (May - Nov) Permaculture Design Course, Matakana, Rodney - with Trish Allen and Guenther Andraschko

2021

- Corban's Summer School 5 day course: Smartphone Cinema Secrets with Your Mobile (FiLMiC Pro & LumaFusion) - with Daniel Wagner

1985: University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa, B.Arch. I, Merit Certificate awarded for History of Architecture and Related Arts

1982: University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa, Post-graduate Higher Education Diploma; Majors in Art/English

1979 - 81: University of KwaZulu-Natal, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa, B.A. Majors in Fine Art & Art History; Minors in English, German, Psychology

Work in Private Collections

- em45: *isos, 2017*
- The Arts House Trust: *Adjust to the Driving, 2018*
- The Arts House Trust: *Contains No Preservatives: Study After Bacon's Study After Velázquez's Portrait of Pope Innocent X (1953), 2018*
- Rodney District Council: *Life Forms*, *2005*

Awards | Grants

2014 - Nomination: Best Set Design for a Musical (Singin' in the Rain) at Showdown Awards, Auckland.

2003, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2009 – awarded Creative NZ grants for a range of community exhibitions/projects in the Auckland/Rodney District

2005 - Rodney District Art Award; Premium Winner

1985 - Merit Certificate: History of Architecture and Related Arts, University of Natal, Durban, South Africa

1984 & 85 - University of Natal Bursary

1979 & 80 - University of Natal Bursary

1976 & 78 - Academic Honours (Sec. school)

Teaching: 1983 – current

2025/26: Inclusive Art workshops

2024 - Studio Art Classes resume

2022 - Art Teacher / Horizon School / College, Snells Beach, Rodney

2017 - 20, private Art classes at StudioChristel; Intellectually disabled artist reaches finals of art award

2018 - Art Intensive classes, Horizon School, Snells Beach, Rodney

2006-17, Consultant/specialist tutor for Performance Technology/Set Design/Publicity Design at Drama Department, Kingsway School, Orewa

2004 - Art History Tutor yr12/13 (Part-time), Kingsway School, Orewa

2001-03, Art History Tutor; Established 1st year Art History Foundation Course; Hungry Creek Art and Craft School, Puhoi

2000 - Art teacher, Intermediate school yr7/8 Art; Kingsway School, Orewa

1998 - Textile Painting Course - Community Education, Orewa College, Auckland.

1993-95, Head of Art Department - Thomas More College, Hillcrest, Natal, South Africa, and Natal Matriculation Examination marker: Art History

1988-91, Head of Art Department - Westville Girls High School, Westville, Natal, South Africa

1986-88, Head of Art Department - Durban Girls High School, Durban, Natal, South Africa

1983-84, Art Teacher - Lyttelton Manor High School, Transvaal, South Africa

Disability & Inclusion Advocacy | Media Interviews

2024 - RNZ Rare disorders aren't unusual enough to ignore

2023 - RNZ Ursula Christel on Angelman Syndrome

Library event raises rare disorders profile

2022: Disability hub 'desperately needed'

2021: The Importance of Beginning Early

2018: Support group for Mahurangi disabled

2016: League star Sam Perrett wears the name of Angelman syndrome sufferer

Families Upset by changes at Wilson Home

2013: Push for Angelman's research

Volunteer | Community

2020 - current; Founder/Secretary - Rodney Inclusive Communities Initiative (RICI), Rodney District/Auckland, a registered Charity in New Zealand

2021 - 24; Member of Mahurangi Artists Network (MAN)

2023 - 24; Trustee, Cement Works Warkworth Conservation Trust, a registered Charitable Trust in New Zealand

2022 - 24; Member, The Kauri and Native Bushmen's Association Warkworth

2021 - 24; volunteer at Warkworth Museum, Warkworth

2020/21 - Committee member/Website manager - AIM (Adults in Motion), Warkworth, a registered Charity in New Zealand

2017 - 19, Founding member, Wilson Home Family Action Group Inc., Takapuna/Auckland

2014 -16, Trustee, Estuary Arts Centre Trust (EACT), Orewa/Auckland

2012 - 2024; Co-founder/Kaitiaki of International Angelman Day. Website/Campaign manager/ Social media manager for the IAD Global Collective

2009 - current; Founder/Chairperson, Website/social media manager - The Angelman Network, a registered Charitable Trust in New Zealand

2007-07 - Founding member/Secretary, The Arts Forum Inc (TAFI), Hibiscus Coast, Auckland