

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 19 July 2017**



Image: Robert George

## **Award-winning filmmaker to present new risk-taking work**

An ambitious experimental five-screen film by filmmaker and artist Robert George will debut at Te Uru in Titirangi from 2 September to 19 November.

Robert George is a filmmaker to keep an eye on; his short film *'Aka'ōu: Tātatau in the Cook Islands* was included in the Loading Docs 2016 selection of ten short documentaries and George's short film *Smiths Ave* won him the Emerging Māori Director award at last year's Wairoa Māori Film Festival. Both featured in the Pollywood 2016 programme, with *Smiths Ave* also playing at the New Zealand International Film Festival in the same year.

Though his star is on the rise, George is no stranger to film or exhibitions. He has worked in the film and television industry for over fifteen years, developing a specific style that draws upon the tradition of surrealist cinema but with a particular focus on telling Pacific stories. This has made him a much sought-after collaborator. He has worked with artists Rosanna Raymond and Tiffany Singh, as well as playwright Vela Manusaute.

*a memoir for falling light* is George's first major solo exhibition, an opportunity he's not taking lightly. His new work takes a complex and impressionistic approach to the psychological effects of an impending loss, mining the ways that film can entangle and encapsulate multiple moods and perspectives.

Te Uru curator, Ioana Gordon-Smith, says, "George's new work takes the ambitious step of using multiple simultaneous channels to introduce multiple readings of what happens in any single moment. In this way, he weaves together an ethereal, dreamlike sensibility with the starkness of reality to consider the relationship between the outer world and the inner mind."

In making his new work, George hopes to embed an indigenous understanding of time and death into a reading of the final moments of a person's life.

"As a conversation, *a memoir for falling light* talks about a time and space that we all will inevitably come to when we will have the chance to reflect on our life", says George.

"This project is not concerned with one singular or literal translation of the human condition. I am interested in trying to propose something broader about what it means to approach death, and what it might mean to remember."

Public programmes that look at aspects of storytelling and encourage multiple interpretations will support the exhibition.

*a memoir for falling light* runs from 2 September – 19 November at Te Uru.  
Opening: Saturday 2 September, 4pm

Hours: 10am – 4.30pm daily  
Address: 420 Titirangi Road, Titirangi, Auckland  
Website: [www.teuru.org.nz](http://www.teuru.org.nz)

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**About the artist:**

Robert George is of Ngāti Kuki Airani (Rarotonga & Atiu), Te Arawa and Ngāti Awa heritage. Originally studying Fine Arts and Design, Robert has a background in painting and illustration. He began exhibiting as a painter before he had finished art school, leading to the decision for Robert to leave art school and become a practicing artist. It was after a handful of group shows in Auckland that he decided to change tack and re-enter tertiary education to complete a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Sociology. Robert began his journey in the film industry training/working at post-production houses Oktobor and Sauce in Wellington. Robert now lives and works in Auckland, Aotearoa-New Zealand as a practicing filmmaker. He is looking forward to becoming a father for the first time in September.

**About Te Uru**

Te Uru Waitakere Contemporary Gallery, based in scenic Titirangi, is West Auckland's regional art gallery. After two years of redevelopment, Te Uru opened in November 2014 in a purpose-built building as part of the Lopdell Precinct. Te Uru receives core funding from the Waitakere Ranges Local Board of Auckland Council.

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