

Lorene Taurerewa

The Company of Fools

Catalogue essay by Ashley Crawford

She draws like an angel while she renders hell

There is something definitely wrong about these images. They are still moments from an alternate reality that we all cringe from. They are the images we see from peripheral vision, from horribly shady reminiscences of somnambulistic curses imposed from the unconscious. They are things we don't want to remember.

And yet, why are they so both seductive and familiar, so strangely impelling, so innately parts of our own psyche?

In one image a little girl plays on a swing while her adult doppelganger stands before her. Both are beautiful and yet neither are happy – one aspires to be an adult, the other a child, one dreaming of the other – please allow the innocence, please allow the knowledge.

Then there is the carnival in its most malicious cycle, the horrendous reality of entertainment, the donkey (disturbed), the fat man (suicidal), the black man (the victim), the dwarves (humiliated), the clown wards off demons but is defeated, the pederast looms behind, awaiting a feast of brains. The Wiseman, or at least the skeletal remains of him, walks off stage in disgust.

Elsewhere the dominatrix oversees her minions, her simian whip amply readied to apply, her subservient, be-suited suitors gaunt and wounded, supplicants one and all.

Lorene Taurerewa is a storyteller, pure and simple. Her viscous and vicious narratives fall somewhere into the ether world populated by the likes of Hans Christian Andersen at his most extreme (the mangled feet of a child in *The Red Shoes*), Joel Peter Witkin at his most baroque excesses and David Lynch with his macabre *mis en scenes*. Taurerewa's short stories are compiled in a sensuous and sinuous narrative line. Her twins are the brothers of Kubrick's sisters in *The Shining* via a gruesome Dr. Mengele fantasy. Her clowns are a bizarre melding of Hans Bellmer and John Wayne Gacy.

But despite – or perhaps because of – their ultimately macabre stories we are drawn into these pictures, seduced by Taurerewa as succubus. This is in large part due to her sheer virtuoso skill with her media; she draws like an angel while she renders hell. There's something unnervingly innocent about her horror stories and we, like wee children listening to a fairy story at night, are drawn into her world and we will never be able to quite leave it behind. You can't quite eradicate these images ... they burn into the retina and they return, often at night, uncalled for... unbidden, but always there... waiting.

Ashley Crawford, 2010

Helen Gory Galerie
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Wed – Sat 11am – 5pm



Lorene Taurerewa

Born in New Zealand, currently residing in New York

Qualifications

- 2001-08 Lecturer in Drawing, School of Design
Victoria University, Wellington, NZ
- 2000 MA Program, Auckland University of Technology NZ
- 1996 BFA Painting, Quay School of Fine Arts, Wanganui, NZ

Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2011 The Company of Fools, Helen Gory Galerie, Melbourne
- 2010 Suite Gallery, Wellington, NZ
Sleight of Hand, Pataka Museum of Arts and Cultures,
Porirua, NZ
Yardmeter Editions, Brooklyn, New York
Drawing Center Viewing Program, New York
- 2009 More Eccentricity, Chaffers Gallery, Wellington, NZ
White Paintings, Oedipus Rex Gallery, Auckland, NZ
Maori Market, Pataka Museum of Arts and Cultures,
Porirua, NZ
Drawing Center Viewing Program, New York, USA
- 2008 Eccentriks, A.I.C.H Gallery, New York, USA
Psychopompe, Oedipus Rex Gallery, Auckland, NZ
Sensible World, Chaffers Gallery, Wellington, NZ
Drawings, New Zealand Consulate, Santa Monica
Los Angeles, USA
- 2007 Degrees of Separation, Oedipus Rex Gallery, Auckland
- 2006 Lorene Taurerewa, National Museum of Contemporary
Art, Changdong Gallery, Seoul, Korea
Lorene Taurerewa Drawing, Pataka Museum of Arts and
Cultures, Porirua, NZ
Journey of 1000 Miles, Sarjeant Gallery, Wanganui, NZ
Lorene Taurerewa, Here and Now, Fifty2gallery,
Wellington, NZ
- 2005 Big Drawings, Lopdell House Gallery, Auckland, NZ
- 2004 Inherited Bodies, Pataka Museum of Arts and Cultures,
Porirua, NZ
- 2002 Body Speak, Neut Gallery, Wellington, NZ

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2010 Unnerved: The New Zealand Project, National Gallery of
Victoria, Melbourne, Australia
Unnerved: The New Zealand Project, Queensland Art
Gallery/Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane, Australia
Figuration Today, Mclean Project for the Arts, Washington
DC, USA
- 2009 Chrysalid, Amelia Johnson Gallery, Hong Kong
INSIGHT: Contemporary Approaches to Drawing, Ann
Street Gallery, New York, USA
Soul Ideologie, Gallery Korea, New York, USA
Works on Paper, Oedipus Rex Gallery, Auckland, NZ
- 2008 New Zealand Embassy, Paris, France
Samoa Contemporary, Sarjeant Gallery, NZ
Samoa Contemporary, Pataka Museum of Arts and
Cultures, Porirua, NZ
Samoa Contemporary, Tauranga Public Art Gallery,
Tauranga, NZ
- 2007 Essence of Asia: Eastern Influences in Western Art, Asian
Fusion Gallery, New York, USA
Drawing Center Viewing Program, New York, USA
Artists Space, Irving Sandler Artists Files, New York, USA
- 2006 Mark Hutchins Gallery, Wellington, NZ
- 2004 Wahine Pasifika, Te Wa Gallery, Wanganui, NZ
- 2003 Dolly Mix (W)rappers, Pataka Museum of Arts and
Cultures, Porirua, NZ
- 2002 Summer Show, Te Wa Gallery, Wanganui, New Zealand
ArtsStation, Auckland, NZ
- 2001 Dolly Mix (W)rappers, Waikato Museum of Art and
History, Hamilton, NZ

Awards & Grants

- 2009 Grant recipient, Creative New Zealand: Arts Council of NZ
- 2006 IASK Residency: The National Artists Studio: National
Museum of Contemporary Art, Seoul, Korea
Supreme Winner, Martin Hughes Contemporary Pacific Art
Award, NZ
- 2006 Grant recipient, Creative New Zealand: Arts Council of NZ
- 2004 Grant recipient, Creative New Zealand: Arts Council of NZ