

## Personal experiences and national histories

Artists draw on unreliable memories.

A collaborative exhibition by Alexis Neal and Elke Finkenauer is now on show at the Gus Fisher Gallery, inspired by a shared experience of Louise Bourgeois' artist books. *Something to Remember* takes its title from *Nothing to Remember!* (2006) published in Bourgeois' final years, an intimate collection of drawings and mixed media that highlights the impermanence of memory.

*Something to Remember* develops this idea of fleeting and fragmented memories. Through the media of lithography, screen-print and debossment, the exhibition evokes traces of recollections only half-remembered. The artists draw on social and communal life experiences to contribute to Bourgeois' legacy, reconfiguring the past and bringing it into the present.

Neal considers how her childhood memories of culture and colonial legacy have informed her identity and artistic practice. Finkenauer offers a retrospective understanding of collective time past, acknowledging how hindsight and external social influences can transform the

perspective of memories in the present day.

Together, the artists present a body of work deliberately fragmented and reconfigured through the passage of time.

Alexis Neal (of New Zealand/Māori descent) lives in New Zealand. Her exhibitions include *Whare Taonga*, with Rona Osborne at Sarjeant Gallery Whanganui (2012); *Pura Te Manihera McGregor* "Whenua ki te Whenua," a result of her Tylee Cottage residency, at Sarjeant Gallery (2015) Whanganui; *Korero Tuku Iho* at Gus Fisher Gallery, Auckland (2016).

Elke Finkenauer (of New Zealand/German descent) is based in Auckland and Glasgow. Her recent solo exhibitions include *Saturday Safari*, at Glasgow Project Room (2017) and *Approximately Bacon* at The Old Hairdresser's, Glasgow (2016). In 2016 Finkenauer completed *Transitional Line*, a public commission for Auckland Council.

*Something to Remember* is showing at the Gus Fisher Gallery, Auckland until 19 June. [gusfishergallery.auckland.ac.nz](http://gusfishergallery.auckland.ac.nz)



From top: Elke Finkenauer, *January Dawn*, 2018, screenprint, 400 x 800mm; Alexis Neal, *Tears of Love*, drypoint relief, Chine-collé, lithograph and ink, 800 x 600mm