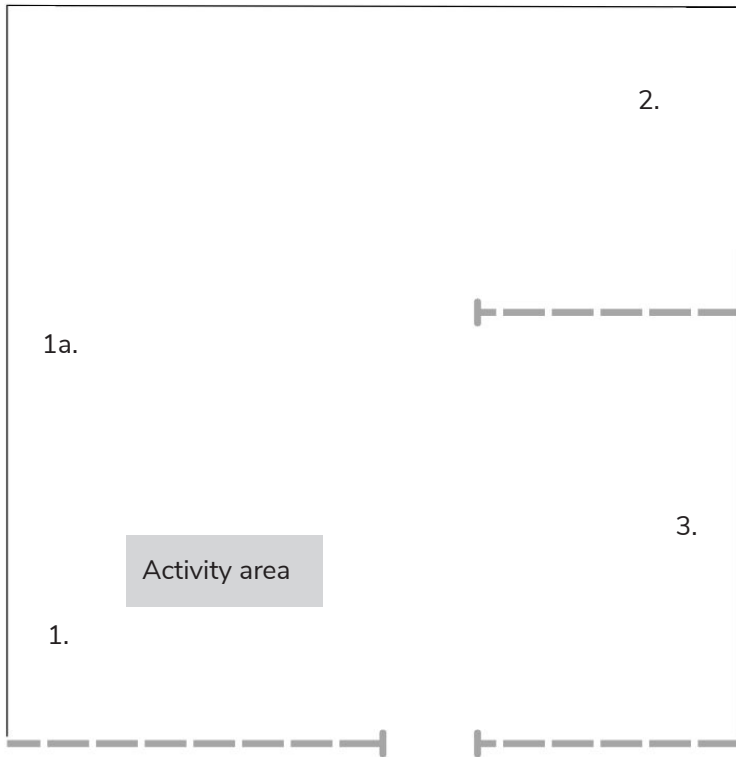


Water Morality



Orquidea Collective
10 May – 27 July 2025



Exhibition sections

1. Aesthetic Oceania Cosmoism –
Wave Craft, 2025
Mixed media on wood
Dimensions variable

1a. Mahikai Ark, 2023
Custom-built speaker, amp rack and
Tapa sailing jib
Dimensions variable

2. Aesthetic Oceania Cosmoism – Fibre
Craft, 2025
Tualau clan Ngatu, Batik, Kain tenun,
Bilums and Nokens
Dimensions variable

3. Aesthetic Oceania Cosmoism –
Wood Craft, 2025
Mixed media on wood
Dimensions variable

Water Morality is an experimental project and multi-sensory installation that combines the works created by members of Orquidea Collective – HibiZ cuZ, Jin, and Porobibi. It is comprised of our newly built sound sculpture, *Mahikai Ark*, and *Arafura Domain* – a collaborative work using fibre, wood, and clay. The exhibition explores the relationship between the Pacific Ocean and our creative practice.

In *The Deluge Ark(ive)* exhibition text, Dr Sonique (2017) says:

Our blood and our tears have the same salinity as the ocean. It is a reminder of the origin of all life on the planet and a warning that we share our well-being with our vast and indifferent mother.

Our work is inspired by rediscovering our sea of islands (Dr Epeli Hau'ofa, 1993) and the Ocean, particularly the Arafura Sea – the portal to a meeting place, a passage for connection directed by the will of water – to forge a new discipline which we call, *Aesthetic Oceania Cosmoism*.

This collection of works combines models of improved art practices and integrates methods of human-land-sea ontologies and typologies. The translation of theory into practice coincides with the ideals of “people art” – nomadism, coexistence of collective knowledge, radical art practices, holism, multiple perspectives and the nature continuum.



About Orquidea Collective

Orquidea Collective is an inter-Pacific artist collective based in Naarm, utilising art as means of ecological expression and education. Founded in June 2018, Orquidea Collective actively encourages the growth of fine art ideas in an urban/sub-urban context and cultural scope through exhibitions, collaboration, and experimentation.

The main goal of this collective is to propose a new discipline within Pacific Art Renaissance, without superficiality or artificiality hindering the art-making process or development.

Combining their Pacific knowledge and cultural philosophies, Orquidea Collective takes on an experimental creative project that aims to evolve towards better praxis.

Acknowledgements

Greater thanks to the Earth, the Moon, the Sun, and the Great Serpent creator, to all members of Orquidea Collective, to the Counihan Gallery, Tank girl Tilly, Hornung Brothers, Nato Skimice, Bosque, Ripley Kavara, Hijra Ahmad, and Mahikai chuffed funders.

Merri-bek City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people as the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waterways in the area now known as Merri-bek. We pay respect to their Elders past, present, and emerging, as well as to all First Nations communities who significantly contribute to the life of the area.



Merri-bek
City Council



ARTS
MERRI-BEK