

# | McATAMNEY GALLERY AND DESIGN STORE

## GAUGUIN IN AOTEAROA

Wellington Artists, Gabriel Heimler and Anna Proc will be at Geraldine's McAtamney Gallery this Saturday, February 15.

Their 2019 series "Gauguin in Aotearoa", on exhibition until March 26 sprang from their discovery that Gauguin had an Auckland stopover on his second journey to Tahiti in 1895.

In this series, Heimler and Proc speculate how Gauguin might see us, were he to arrive today.

While their paintings pay direct homage to Gauguin in terms of palette, subject and style, there are added layers and breadth to Heimler and Proc's works.

Our diverse population, our unique flora and landscapes, our symbols and even other New Zealand artists are acknowledged in these dynamic and vibrant paintings.

Like Gauguin, both Heimler and Proc are of European descent, living and working in Berlin before emigrating to Wellington ten years ago.

The couple say that in the same way Gauguin was looking for inspiration and a different reality in the South Pacific, so too, were they seeking that challenge.

Further challenge is their method; sharing two canvases at a time, they each paint a layer before swapping again. In this way canvases are truly shared, with art works completed in absolute creative collaboration.

Aotearoa has so far provided the inspiration they sought, with two series of works completed in 2019; "Pacific Memorial" and "Gauguin in Aotearoa"

Anna Proc; "We love our subjects and think it's interesting and inspiring. We hope people will appreciate it and connect with the past through a contemporary painting"

The couple are looking forward to visiting Geraldine, a journey they are making just for this exhibition. Saturday's opening offers the opportunity to meet the artists and hear them speak more about the Gauguin series.

"Gauguin in Aotearoa" will be at the McAtamney Gallery and Design Store, February 15 until March 26.