



CONCRETIONS - THE ACT OF COMING TOGETHER

AS THE INAUGURAL RECIPIENTS OF THE WHAKATĀNE MUSEUM'S VOLCANIC ARTIST RESIDENCY, EDWARDS+JOHANN HAVE SPENT TIME BUILDING A RELATIONSHIP WITH WHAKAARI/WHITE ISLAND. THROUGH THEIR VISITS TO THIS SITE, THE PAIR HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO THE VOLATILITY AND INTENSE BEAUTY OF THE VOLCANO, INSPIRING THEM TO PROCEED UPON A CELEBRATION OF THE SUBLIMITY OF THE PLACE.

THE SUBLIME TRADITIONALLY EXPLAINED REPRESENTATIONS OF DIVINE INTERVENTIONS: PUNISHMENT, BIBLICAL TEACHINGS AND DISPLAYS OF POWER WHICH INSPIRED FEELINGS OF AWE AND TERROR. CAN WE CONSIDER THE INCREDIBLE POWER OF THE EARTH AS ITS OWN VERSION OF DIVINITY? AN 'ECOLOGICAL SUBLIME' IN CONTEMPORARY ART PRACTICE OFFERS A WINDOW INTO THE HUMAN NATURE OF EXPLORING OUR WORLD AND OUR RELATIONSHIPS TO IT. THE UNPREDICTABILITY, VOLATILITY AND INTENSITY OF THE EARTH NOT ONLY INSPIRES TERROR, BUT AWE. THESE SUBLIME EMOTIONS ARE PERSISTENT, THE DICHOTOMY BETWEEN THE TWO SO CLEAR AND YET, THEY COME HAND IN HAND. IT IS TRULY THE ECOLOGICAL SUBLIME WHICH EDWARDS+JOHANN HAVE EMBRACED IN THIS MOST RECENT BODY OF WORKS. *CONCRETIONS: THE ACT OF COMING TOGETHER* IS A REFLECTION UPON THE DICHOTOMIES WHICH MAKE UP WHAKAARI, AND IN TURN, THE EARTH.

VOLATILE AND STABLE, VULNERABLE AND POWERFUL, BEAUTIFUL AND TERRIFYING. THESE WORKS REPRESENT RELATIONSHIPS OF WONDER AND FEAR, THESE SUBLIME NOTIONS WHICH — AS EDMUND BURKE SUMMARIZED — ENCAPSULATE THE STRONGEST EMOTIONS THAT THE HUMAN MIND IS CAPABLE OF FEELING.

CONCRETIONS: THE ACT OF COMING TOGETHER PULLS FROM A VARIETY OF MEDIUMS, FROM SOURCES, FROM RESOURCES AND FROM THOUGHTS. IT TRULY IS A 'COMING TOGETHER' IN EVERY SENSE OF THE PHRASE. NOT ONLY DOES THIS SERIES ENCOMPASS BOTH TWO- AND THREE-DIMENSIONAL WORKS, BUT THE *HAPPENING* OF OPENING NIGHT PROVIDES A DIRECT, BODILY EXPERIENCE TO THE VIEWER. A CULMINATION OF IDEAS OF 'THE LARVAL', THE MICROSCOPIC, THE BACTERIAL, THE HUMAN, THE NON-HUMAN, THE ORGANIC AND THE ABSTRACT, THIS HAPPENING MIRRORS THE WAY THAT EDWARDS+JOHANN RESPOND TO WHAKAARI. 'THERE IS SO MUCH GRANDEUR — LIKE A THEATRE STAGE YOU FIND YOURSELF IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ACTION ALL THE TIME — YET WITH SO MUCH INTIMATE DETAIL...' ¹ THIS HAPPENING REFLECTS THE UNPREDICTABILITY, THE INDEPENDENCE AND THE VOLATILITY OF THE EARTH.

AS THESE THREADS OF THOUGHT HAVE BEEN PULLED TOGETHER BY EDWARDS+JOHANN, WHAT COMES NEXT WILL BE JUST AS UNPREDICTABLE, VOLATILE, BEAUTIFUL AND WONDEROUS.

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¹ [HTTPS://WWW.THEBIGIDEA.NZ/STORIES/MEDIA-RELEASES/219514-BIRTH-OF-THE-VOLCANIC-ARTIST-RESIDENCY](https://www.thebigidea.nz/stories/media-releases/219514-birth-of-the-volcanic-artist-residency)