

KALISOLAITE 'UHILA



Kalisolaite 'Uhila is an award-winning performance artist based in Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland. Born in the Kingdom of Tonga, his art practice centres on live performance, often unrehearsed, in gallery spaces and other locations.

Kalisolaite's projects, which are often informed by his Tongan heritage, have won him a number of accolades including an Auckland Fringe Award, a contemporary Pacific Artist Award at the Creative New Zealand Pasifika Arts Award, and being a finalist in the 2014 Walters Prize. In 2020, he was gifted the Art Foundation's sought-after Harriet Friedlander Residency in Wellington; a \$100,000 award that enables the recipient to experience New York. Other residencies have taken him to Canada, Tokyo, Berlin and most recently to Karekare, West Coast Auckland.

Kalisolaite received a Bachelor of Visual Arts in 2010, followed by a Masters of Performance & Media Arts in 2016. "I guess for me, choosing to study art was another way of rebelling, especially in my culture. Art was not recognised as a proper career path. It turns out it was one of the best decisions I've ever made." His advice to other visual arts students is straightforward - "Don't be scared. Get out of your comfort zone. No change comes from no change."