

AUCKLAND ART GALLERY TOI O TĀMAKI

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Jonathan Jones lights up Auckland Art Gallery Atrium

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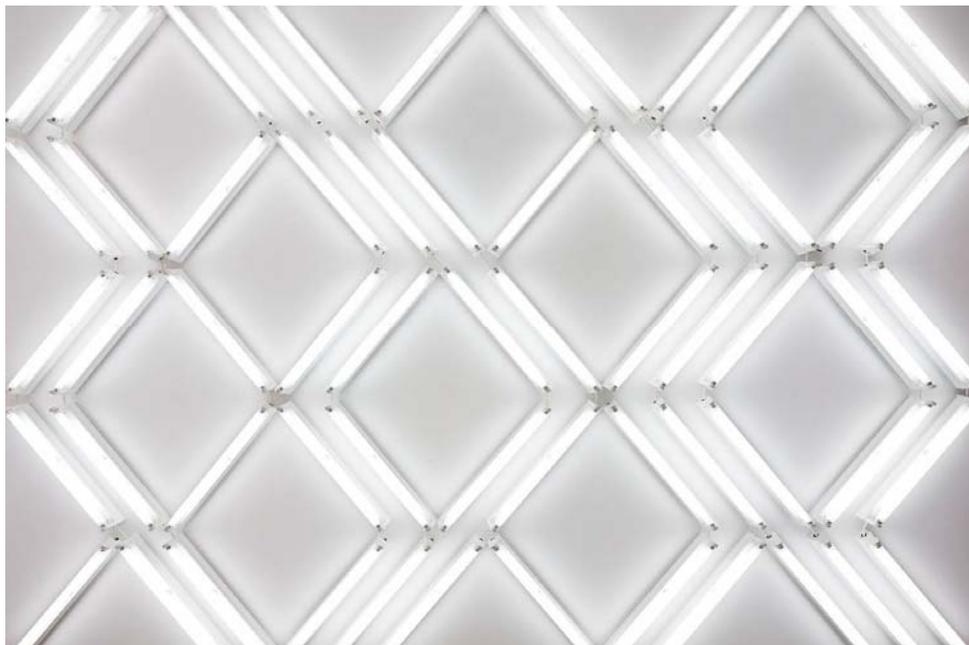


Image credit: Jonathan Jones, untitled (sum of the parts) 2010 (installation detail) – full credit below

Indigenous Australian artist Jonathan Jones is set to light up Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki's North Atrium with a work comprising more than 80 precisely spaced fluorescent lights from Sunday 23 March, 2014.

This up-scaled version of the Sydney-based artist's work, *untitled (sum of the parts)*, manipulates fluorescent battens to create dynamic plays of light and shadow. While the cross-hatching and chevron motifs created from the lights may appear as Western minimalism, for Jones they refer to the traditional Aboriginal concerns of country and community. The designs are based upon the carved patterning of Koori (south-eastern Aboriginal) shields and the markings on possum-skin cloaks, cloaks which reference the customary traditions of Jones' ancestors.

The work was acquired by the Chartwell Collection of contemporary art in 2010 and for this installation it will be radically up-scaled to fill the south wall of the impressive 14.7 metre-high atrium of the Gallery. The work, which is visible from the street, complements the coinciding exhibition *My Country: Contemporary Art from Black Australia*. The work will remain on display for audiences throughout the year.

Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki director, Rhana Devenport, says Jonathan Jones' *untitled (sum of the parts)* is an ideal work for the Gallery's high-profile atrium space, and firmly places Indigenous art in the spotlight.

'We are thrilled that Jones accepted our invitation to reconfigure his piece on a dramatic and complex scale for this central and highly visible space. A re-working

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was always the hope of the artist and now is the right time for this project to be realised by the Gallery in conjunction with three major exhibitions of indigenous art from Aotearoa New Zealand and Australia.

‘Jonathan Jones is an impressive and prolific artist, a member of the Wiradjuri and Kamilaroi nations of south-east Australia, and creates works in many mediums. His illuminated site-specific works are both visually stunning and hauntingly beautiful as they explore Indigenous concepts and relationships.’

Auckland Art Gallery Curator – Contemporary Art, Stephen Cleland says the Gallery approached Jones to develop the work specifically for this highly ambitious and challenging venue.

‘Jonathan Jones is renowned for his light works, having completed several major public art commissions in Australia. The Gallery offers an outstanding space in the North Atrium to present his first architectural work in New Zealand on this scale.’

Archimedia and Holmes Consulting Group, the New Zealand-based architects and engineers who worked on the Gallery’s award-winning restoration and expansion with Australian architecture firm Francis-Jones Morehen Thorp, were brought on board to assist the realisation of the artwork. This involved the design and installation of a cantilevered ‘floating wall’ to support the criss-crossed lights.

The work is set to light up on Sunday 23 March and will be on display until early 2015. This exhibition is supported by the Chartwell Trust and the Auckland Contemporary Art Trust.

This coincides with Jones’ **free artist talk** on **Sunday 23 March** at 3pm in the Atrium at Auckland Art Gallery where he will discuss his wider body of work.

- ENDS –

Image credit:

Jonathan Jones (Kamilaroi / Wiradjuri)
untitled (sum of the parts) 2010/2014 (detail)
fluorescent tubes, wiring, electrical cable
Chartwell Collection, Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki, 2010

For more information about the artist visit www.jonathanjones.com.au

NOTE TO EDITORS:

It may be possible to view the work with lights on in advance of the official opening date, please get in touch with Jade Lucas directly, contact details are below.

For more information please contact:

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