

ROSE JAMES

THROUGH A CLOUD OF SMOKE AND DUST

Through a cloud of smoke and dust examines the sonic state of a building in limbo by asking: what does architecture sound like? Audio captured from inside the Central Police station on Hereford St prior to its demolition creates an aural catalogue of the building. Sonic artist Rose James reactivates these sounds across huge planes of steel, a ubiquitous material in the construction industry and here an homage to Brutalism. Hanging in the gallery like monumental flags, the steel surface becomes the medium across which the sound amplifies and resonates, a reminder of a building now lost to history.

Rose James is a Christchurch-born, sonic artist now residing in Dunedin. She has a Masters in Art and Design, and a Bachelors in Spatial Design, both from AUT in Auckland.

This show is part of a suite of exhibitions collectively known as 'Crux★Te Punga' initiated by multi-media artist Trent Hiles. Hiles documented the demise of the Central Police station, a Brutalist building located on Hereford St which was deemed irreparable following the Canterbury earthquakes. The site of the building is significant in local history as a seasonal food-gathering place, as the site of the city's first YMCA, and finally as the location for the central police station. Artists have responded to its kaupapa in varied ways, using materials Hiles collected prior to the building's implosion in 2015 as provocation and inspiration.

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