

CoCA EXHIBITION INFO SHEET - FRONT OF HOUSE



Exhibition title	AJAR
Artist	Wayne Youle b. 1974. Wellington born, North Canterbury based.
Media	Installation: concrete structure, sculptures, cell door, prison-issue blanket paintings
Gallery	Ground Floor Gallery
Dates	Friday, 21 September – Sunday, 18 November
Public Programme	Artist talk, Saturday 22 September, 1pm, CoCA meeting room

INFO

AJAR is the second Crux* Te Punga exhibition hosted by us here at CoCA. Commissioned by Trent Hiles, the exhibition is in response to the 2014-15 demolition of the Hereford Street Police building. *AJAR* began with an interest in the text found throughout the holding cells of the Central Police building, from the formal, instructional signage intended to 'help the process' and 'make the stay safe', to the text and marks left behind by the occupants, documenting fears, frustrations and, on occasion, apologies. A number of the works are made from materials, such as the cell door and prison-issue bedding, found in the building. Youle uses his personal brand of "cloaked humor" to open a discussion about the disproportionate number of Māori found in New Zealand's prisons. Youle's practice reflects his bicultural heritage, he often makes works that address issues around identity, race and perceptions of Māori culture. *AJAR* is both playful and critical, and has an intimate relationship with the Central Police building.

FUN FACTS

There is a motion sensor on the left side of the concrete block structure that turns the light bulbs on as a visitor walks past.

The steel panel with the red light bulb is reference to the board game, Operation.

The two steel grates on the wall down the back of GFG resemble air vents found in prison doors. There are small diffusers in them that give off the smell of disinfectant.

The tree is a real tree! And needs to be watered once a day.

POSSIBLE DISCUSSION POINTS WITH VISITORS

Are you familiar with Wayne Youle's work? What's your favourite element of the show? Did you see Rose James' response for Crux* Te Punga – what do you think of Wayne's approach in comparison to Rose's?

ARTIST BIO

Born in 1974, in Titahi Bay, Wellington, Youle is an artist of Ngapuhi, Ngati Whakaeke and Ngati Pakeha descent. In 1999, he received a Bachelor of Design, majoring in Typography, from Wellington Polytechnic Design School (now Massey University College of Creative Arts). His work is held in major institutions across the country including, Te Papa Tongarewa, Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu and Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tamaki. He lives and works in North Canterbury.