

GRADUATE WOMEN OF NEW ZEALAND 2020 FELLOWSHIP MID-YEAR REPORT 2020 | MARINA ALOFAGIA MCCARTNEY

Pito Nu'u, Satupa'itea, Savai'i - Samoa and Vailoa, Palauli, Savai'i - Samoa | Geordie - England

It seems like so long ago since I was offered a life changing GWNZ fellowship in October 2019. Due to Covid-19 and the death of George Floyd, that has catapulted the #BlackLivesMatter movement back to the forefront of our media and minds, we are in the midst of a global shift in terms of how we operate in the world and how we see it.

These ongoing events and significant issues reminded me of how I want to live my life and what type of Mother I want to be to my 6 year old daughter. I not only want her to pursue the things she enjoys, but to do these mindfully and with awareness. These events have sparked conversations about discrimination, racism and during lockdown we watched so many films while unpacking the representation of gender and race. I believe that a 6 year old isn't too young to have these conversations; after all, a child of colour doesn't get to choose their first experience of racism.

The last few months made me realise how much I enjoy exploring Moana filmmaking through my PhD with Creative Practice and also how important it is for me to contribute to the discourse around it. Representation behind the camera is just as important as representation on screen. If we aren't telling our own stories through our Moana specific lens, are they really our stories?

The GWNZ Fellowship has enabled me to focus on my PhD with Creative Component and progress knowledge as a scholar and practitioner in the field of Moana and Indigenous filmmaking. However, while the PhD is opening doors in the industry, as a single Moana Mother it is challenging to study, work and parent while living hand to mouth. The GWNZ Fellowship relieved much of this stress and, I believe, contributed to a 6 month period of productivity I am proud of.

The next 6 months I will focus on pre-production for the creative component of my PhD, field research with Moana filmmakers and lots of film analysis for my contextual review.

Thank you so much GWNZ for making 2020 doable. My daughter Alena Sevai thanks you too. Ia manuia!

Marina Alofagia McCartney



Vai, Melbourne Women's Film Festival 2019, Opening Night Film



AUT Overall Artistic Performance of the Year, 2019



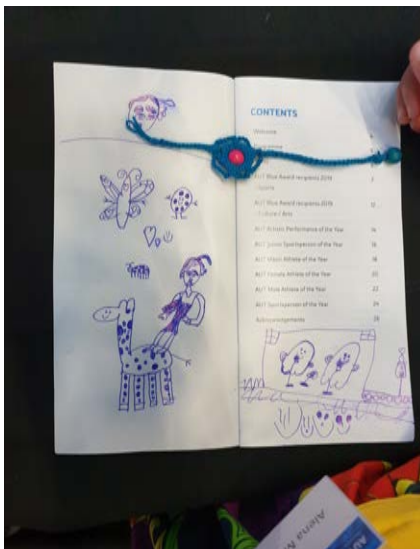
Vai, WINDA Film Festival 2019, Closing Night Film

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View of Mauna Kea, Hilo, Hawai'i
2020 ASAO Conference



Alena's drawing while waiting for the award night to finish
AUT Overall Artistic Performance of the Year, 2019



After winning the AUT Overall Artistic Performance of the Year and finding out I was the recipient of the GWNZ Fellowship – both on the same day!

Below are some of the activities I have been involved in or milestones I have achieved since October 2019:

- AUT University, Confirmation of Candidature received
- Melbourne Women in Film Festival, Short Film Juror
- NZ on Air, Script Assessor – Feature Film
- NZ Film Commission, Fresh Shorts Fund Assessor
- Script to Screen, Facilitator for Short Film Scriptwriting and Pitching Workshop
- Latest film *Vai* screened in a further 20 international film festivals.
 - Melbourne Women in Film Festival, Melbourne – in attendance
 - WINDA Film Festival, Sydney – in attendance

Awards

- 2020 Finalist, WIFT (Women in Film and Television) Woman to Watch, *Winner yet to be announced*
- 2019 Recipient, AUT University Overall Artistic Performance of the Year
- 2019 Recipient, AUT University Cultural and Artistic Blue Award
- 2019 Recipient, ASAO Pacific Islands Scholars Award

Public Lectures & Conference Presentations

- "Indigenous Women Filmmakers". Melbourne Women in Film Festival, Melbourne, Australia, February 2020.
- "Moana Cinema". Va Moana, ASAO Conference, Hilo, Hawai'i, U.S.A, January 2020.
- "Moana Women in Film". The Soul & the Image: The Story of Film in the Pacific, ASAO Conference, Hilo, Hawai'i, U.S.A, January 2020.
- "Tikanga Protocols in Practice – Feel the Fear and Do It Anyway". Power of Inclusion Summit, Auckland, New Zealand, October 2019.