

# COLLEEN ALTAGRACIA | THE FULLNESS OF EMPTY POCKETS

8 Mar - 16 Apr 2011



UPPER GALLERY

Think about the space in your pocket: the nooks and gaps created by uneven stitching. That very final chasm at the very bottom that the tip of your index finger probes from time to time but never fully explores - always a round peg in a triangle hole. The resulting unreachable space takes on an air of virginal preciousness, a lot like unused tissue paper.

Colleen Altagracia's installation assaults that feeling of unattainability - the walls stand coated in twisted, knotted, seemingly calcified facial tissue while a mat of pristine tissue and a lonely clothes rack all suggest the need to fill and cover. The documentary video component gives a preview of the performance aspect of Altagracia's practice in which this covering occurs as people's pockets are cast using an expanding foam.

It is a foam that invades all gaps and then escapes in search of more open space. In using seemingly 'lightweight' material that undergoes a solidifying change the actions and process become somewhat alchemical. Where once nothing existed there is now something.

# ANDY LELEISI'UAO | ARYTIPIDAL



DARK SIDE

Photo credit: Emily Hlavac Green

The sun hovers in a permanent decline over the ocean, casting those floating towards their mysterious destination in an equally curious light. The occupants of the vessels - strange hybrid cryptids - are creatures of unconfirmed existence. At once recognisable and amorphous in the gloomy scene. And just as their forms are mangled combinations of beasts of the world and spirits of the ether, so the elements of the scenario are plucked to form a conglomeration of everyday artifice.

These compound beings and locations are the three dimensional representations of Andy Leleisi'uao's painted world. For a number of years the Auckland based artist has given the cryptids life on canvas, often placing them in layers and cells that share literary associations with Dante's Inferno and visual kinship with Greek amphorae. In this case they are similarly trapped, whether behind a firey toothpick fence or by the limits of their floating craft - the mythic and the damned together at last.

Blue Oyster Art Project Space | [www.blueoyster.org.nz](http://www.blueoyster.org.nz) | Ph 03 479 0197 Basement, 24b Moray Place | PO Box 5903, Dunedin 9058

Gallery hours: Tuesday-Friday 11am-5pm, Saturday 12pm-3pm | Supported by Creative New Zealand/Toi Aotearoa