

Abel Tasman / Discovery Miscellany--September 2020

This miscellany is being prepared 5 months after the previous one, which mentioned the uncertainty of the unknown Covid-19 virus and its impact on the world. While the world continues to discover how the virus relentlessly changes lives, we also hopefully look towards scientific discoveries that bring hope of controlling Covid-19.

1 Abel Tasman exhibition in Enschede, The Netherlands (18 September to 4 October)

It's encouraging to learn of this colourful "playful" exhibition that's just opened at Concordia gallery in Enschede, a town of about 160,000 people near the eastern border of The Netherlands, so not widely accessible in person at present. But they would like to bring the exhibition to Australia and New Zealand sometime. In the meantime it will be possible to order digital copies of their works. Two are reproduced below.

The joint artists are Anne Fehres (Dutch) and Luke Conroy (Australian) who describe it as:

... a contemporary take on the Dutch explorer Abel Tasman. Using digitally printed collage and manual fabric techniques, these works reimagine the story of Abel Tasman from historical, personal and imagined perspectives. The aim of these works is not to provide a history lesson, but instead offer a playful and surreal look at Abel Tasman from the personal point of view of two artists situated in the crossroads of his legacy.

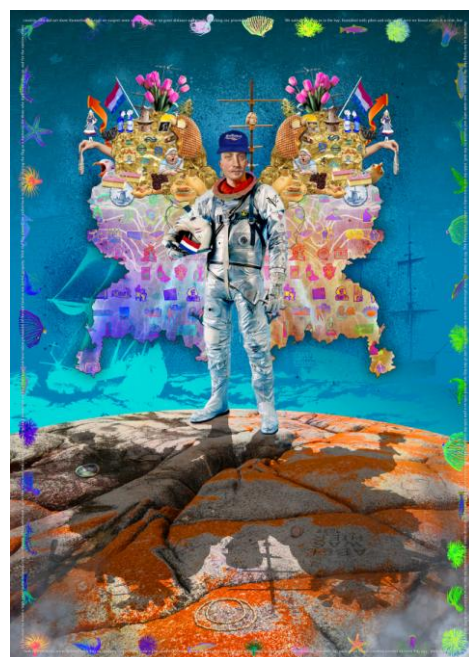
The works on display have been completed during the artist's stay at Artist Residencies Enschede from July to September.

Find out more & contact them on their websites: www.luke-conroy.com/ and www.annefehres.com/ or by Luke's email: lukefconroy@gmail.com

And here's a link to the gallery website: www.concordia.nl/beeldende-kunst/are/



"VOC Advert"



"Space"

2 Pacific Virtual Museum

The National Library of New Zealand is collaborating with the Australian Government and the National Library of Australia to develop a single access point to digitised Pacific cultural heritage items. At this stage it's a pilot project that will run through until February 2022. Read more here: <https://tinyurl.com/y6azsk8e> — including details of a presentation planned for Thursday 8 October 2020, 12.10 to 1pm.

3 Genetic study finds proof of early Polynesian/Native American contact

Scientists at Stanford University have found "conclusive evidence" of a "single shared contact event" about 800 years ago. Read a 10 July article by Michael Daly about the research here: <https://tinyurl.com/y3qjsxy5>

4 Mayflower 400: The science of sailing across the ocean in 1620

Very little is known about the *Mayflower* and its voyage, despite the historical importance of the undertaking in transatlantic history. Left to fall into disrepair after her return voyage in 1621, she was sold for parts in 1624. No plans or images exist (though a replica was constructed in 1957) but a recent article by Jonathan Ridley, Head of Engineering at Solent University (UK), gives a fascinating insight into the many challenges faced: <https://tinyurl.com/y58tpt35>



The Mayflower II: replica ship built in 1957 as a collaboration between UK and US shipbuilders. (PA Archive/PA Images). Image sourced from the article in The Conversation.

5 Recent Publications &c.

- *The first Pakehas around Wellington and Cook Strait 1803 to 1839*, by Rhys Richards, Paremata Press. Contact him by email for further details: parematapress@gmail.com
- *Map History/History of Cartography*: links to an astonishing range of material can be found on a 23-year-old website maintained by Tony Campbell, former Map Librarian, British Library, London: <https://www.maphistory.info/>
- Scheduling of future issues of this publication is somewhat uncertain due to the compiler's relocation to another island. And eventually age will overtake her ... Would anyone else like to take over?

