

Coastal Flows / Coastal Incursions is the exhibition currently in Galleries One and Two at ST PAUL St. The title makes an association with Te Mimi o Tū Te Rakiwhānoa (Fiordland coastal and marine area); the exhibition is one chapter in an ongoing project which revisits a collection of material held at Southland Museum and Art Gallery Niho o Te Taniwha. Over the past six years, working with iwi and across the disciplines of archaeology, museology and visual arts, Alex Monteith has through this project sought to facilitate the research and reappraisal of this collection.

Between 1968 and 1972, multiple sites were excavated throughout Te Mimi o Tū Te Rakiwhānoa. Sometime after 1972 this material, excavated mainly from middens, was deposited with Southland Museum and Art Gallery Niho o Te Taniwha and Otago Museum. Due to its overwhelming scale (approximately 360 boxes at Southland Museum and 36 boxes at Otago Museum), it was unable to be catalogued at that time.

Central to the ongoing project is enabling the cataloguing of the collection. Following a previous phase of work in 2016 at Southland Museum and Art Gallery Niho o Te Taniwha, the long-term task of cataloguing will be continued over a three-week period in the ST PAUL St exhibition. Undertaken with the intention to reconnect the material to people and places according to principles of kaitiakitanga, this is to go some ways to address the treatment of the material culture excavated and its dormancy in the museum setting, and to support discussions about the care of this taoka in time to come.

Monteith's project looks at downstream effects of the journey between the places of excavation and the museum, and at the potential of a durational, interdisciplinary response to the conditions around the collection today. The title holds some of the divergent and complex ideas at stake in the historical and present day engagement with this material.

Coastal Flows / Coastal Incursions

Alex Monteith

**with Mark Adams, Atholl Anderson, Lori Bowers,
David Dudfield, Vicki Lenihan & Gerard O'Regan**

21 September – 27 October 2017

◀ ST PAUL ST



TE WĀNANGA ARONUI
O TĀMAKI MAKAU RAU