“We had seen this happening. The birds have been flying off. We're just not listening to what the birds say”. Prof Unaisi Nabobo-Baba

*Oceanic Refractions* is an immersive installation featuring testimonies of Fijian, i-Kiribati and Papua New Guinean elders on kinship, self-determination and care in the face of global ecocide. Along with reflections from these teachers, artists, fisherpeople, grandparents and chiefs, we hear field recordings of the reefs of Fiji, the oceans and mangroves of Kiribati, and the shorelines of Papua New Guinea’s Duke of York Islands. Through hyper-detailed soundscape compositions, combined with 360 videography, kinetic seating, and olfactory effects, *Oceanic Refractions* creates an unforgettable sensorial experience. Moved by listening and silence, the work offers audiences rare insights into the environmental relations sustaining Oceania’s many worlds.

The climate crisis, an expression of colonial-capitalist violence, is intensifying rapidly. Oceanic frontline communities have long been navigating changing ecosystems. It is through cultures of reciprocity between people, lands and waters, that these changes are being experienced. By listening to environments we recognise our interdependence with the earth; we need one another to survive. Across Oceania, interdependence enables self-determination, collaboration and care in the face of incommensurable loss and grief.

Professor Nabobo-Baba’s comment is one of many Oceanian perspectives, grounded in such interdependence. The result of several years of research and talanoa (dialogue) with Indigenous leaders, scholars, artists and advocates from Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, the Marshall Islands and Nauru, the work is led and produced by artists AM Kanngieser (Australia) and Mere Nailatikau (Fiji) and who combine their expertise in climate research, education and arts (Kanngieser) and Pacific communication and international relations (Nailatikau), as they work with sound artist KMRU (Kenya/Germany), filmmakers Laisiasa Dave Lavaki (Fiji) and Tumeli Tuqota (Fiji), olfactory designer Smell Art (Australia), design and fabrication studio Space Forms (Ireland) and projection specialist Frame Works (Ireland).

*Oceanic Refractions*

14.02min

(Video, surround sound, scent, kinetic seating)

Testimonies: Lydia Jacob, Unaisi Nabobo-Baba, Simione Sevudredre, Philip Tacom, Teweiariki Teaero

Visuals: Laisiasa Dave Lavaki, Tumeli Tuqota and Mere Nailatikau

Sound: KMRU and AM Kanngieser

Production and Fabrication: Space Forms, Frameworks and Smell Arts

**Media Links**

[Oceanic Refractions: A transcendent dive into Pacific realities](https://islandsbusiness.com/news-break/oceanic-refractions-exhibition/) Islands Business 19 January 2024

[Oceanic Refractions Review](https://www.radioeins.de/programm/sendungen/sondersendung/transmediale-2024/oceanic-refractions.html) Radio Eins 31 January 2024

[CTM Review featuring Oceanic Refractions](https://www.deutschlandfunkkultur.de/ctm-festival-fuer-experimentelle-musik-tinnitus-im-ohr-dlf-kultur-4909898b-100.html) Deutschland Radio 01 February 2024

[Interview with AM Kanngieser and Joseph Kamaru](https://refugeworldwide.com/radio/ctm-festival-or-am-kanngiesser-and-kmru-kmru-02-feb-2024) Refuge Radio 02 February 2024

Interview with Mere Nailatikau Kulturaustausch