28.05.25

Heatwave

Raisa Mclean

RM Gallery Hours
Thursday and Friday
1 — 5pm

Saturday
12 — 4pm
—

www.rm.org.nz

info@rm.org.nz
—

3 Samoa House Lane
Auckland

Summer's sting is sharp when the sun dips out of reach. It falls through me like sand in a sieve. In the sticky heat of January, I tried to gather it, holding it lightly with my fingers splayed. Wavering on a tightrope, I spilled the itchy grains over everything. We cried and cried as I tried to sweep them up, gathering pieces until all the trees dried up and turned red. Before it could be caught, summertime drifted off and we never spoke again. My room was so hot that night, it was a feeling I couldn't quite name.

~

Where do you see yourself? I think I saw you in a song but maybe I was hearing the lyrics wrong. I think I saw you in my reflection but maybe it was the way my hair sat that day. I can't wash out the sand.

~

There's a heatwave and your voice floats through me like a half forgotten dream

Like that song *The World is as Soft as Lace*, this room makes me think of a sunny day on the beach with my friends

This season feels like a sigh but my mouth's taped over

It's a heatwave and

It's a heatwave and we went to the pub today

Looking back at you when I leave it feels like a race back to the sun

Where do you see yourself?

It's a heatwave and I see myself in your image

It's a heatwave and the air sticks to like sand

On Boxing Day it's humid and we're eating sausages in bread

Tomorrow we fly to Tassie

It’s a heatwave and I’m not sure where I fit into all of this

It’s a heatwave and we’re headed to the coast

Sunlight dances on the dunes and skates along the water

We dive up and down like fish

It’s a heatwave and I’m in heaven

It’s a heatwave and I wonder where I am and maybe even where you are

Bending forward into arabesques, our hands fail to touch in the middle

Whirling around now, this room becomes unrecognisable

It’s a heatwave and we’re all cramped into a bathroom stall and giggling

It’s a heatwave and some angry people are pounding on the door

‘Some of us actually need to go’

Laughing out a sorry, five of us spill from a narrow cubicle into the party

It’s a heatwave and it’s already May

It’s a heatwave and I’ve forgotten your name

It’s a heatwave and isn’t it funny?

How everything looks the same year on year.

It’s a heatwave and I wish it wasn’t

The house is too hot and a fan won’t cool us down

It’s a heatwave and there’s so much left to ask, like –

- Did you see it?

I hope you hear it for me

In the cooling air after 10pm

At the start of my favourite song

Bare feet hitting hot asphalt

I heard it,

Crashed onto worn cotton

Arms thrown back and pressed down

It’s a heatwave and I hope you hear it for me

In the sun shining backwards through a cold glass

On my front lawn

In these rigid chairs

In someone else’s words

In my own,

It’s a heatwave and I hope you hear it for me

It’s a heatwave and I hope you see it for me

It’s a heatwave and

It’s a heatwave and we went to the pub today

( songs)

Work List (left to right)

1. *Exit Scene,* 2025, cloth tape and timber stain on plywood

2. *Kaleidoscope/Tight Rope,* 2025, corrugated iron, galvanised steel, cloth tape $1250

3. *Sunset,* 2025, photograph on mulberry silk, aluminium frame $650

4. *A time will come when we can no longer name it*, 2025, burnt plywood $450

5. *Golf cocktail,* 2024, plywood, galvanised steel, cloth tape, timber stain $1200

6. *Heatwave,* 2025, cotton thread on PVC, grommets, chain, $1100

7. *Hoax (reprise),* 2022/25, cloth tape on galvanised steel $1080

8. *Conversations at the pub with Cecily*, 2024, cloth tape on galvanised steel $1080

9. *Table top trace,* 2024, cloth tape on galvanised steel $1000

10. *Poker night and dancing,* 2025, cloth tape on galvanised steel $1100

11. *Me and you*, 2023/25, galvanised wire $650

12. 12. *Stretch mesh black mesh asymmetric jumpsuit dress S (Black Dress)*, cloth tape, acrylic paint and sand on galvanised steel $1000