

My name is [REDACTED]. I am applying to go to Elam as I have always been passionate about creating and conceptualising. My education in art has been at [REDACTED], and has centred on Art Design. I chose this as I believed it would allow me to combine my stories with my art. Although I have honed my craft throughout my high school art education, I have felt somewhat restricted in what I create and the system in which it is assessed. I feel very strongly now that I must push beyond this and think more conceptually. I'm also very politically involved and I would like to find a way of blend this into my work. I feel that artists such as Ai Weiwei are looking at these themes in innovative and quite subtle ways. Similarly, I am fascinated by Louise Bourgeois' themes of womanhood, family, childhood and death. I would like to explore the possibilities of creating art that reflects more of my own identity.

I want to study at Elam as I think it would influence the development of my own "voice" as an artist, and allow me to explore personal connections in my own work. I think Elam specifically has a sense of community that other art schools do not seem to have. Through talking to students that attend, I also feel that the depth of experience of the tutors and their approach to students is one that encourages personal development.

My work over the past two years has moved from a blend of digital/hand drawn work to completely hand painted and lined work. Although the works I am presenting are in a graphic novel format, I want to learn to use other mediums to create. My current art conveys the theme of the new types of isolation we face in our lives in the 21st century. These isolations are inflicted through the introduction of status and narcissism through social media that is becoming increasingly engrained in our culture. Art, to me is a something I centre my life around, whether it is painting and drawing, creating music or writing. I enjoy mixing mediums of paint, clay, pen and pencil. Through these and my own stories I attempt to bring some kind of individuality to my work. I would love to go to Elam because I feel that it would develop my skill and give me a more conceptual approach to my art, give me technical and interdisciplinary skills. My piece this year is "Smart Baby", which focuses on the 21st century isolation I mentioned above. I enjoy drawing unique and dynamic faces, which I intertwine with my story. These faces mainly come to me from the people I see on public transport and I am inspired by everyday life.

I hope you accept me for admission in the first year programme at Elam. Creating my art gives me tremendous satisfaction, and is something which I would be incredibly glad to be able to continue. I would love to develop myself and my art and use it to move others the way art moves me. I am focused on my artwork and would be happy to meet any Elam staff if more information on work or myself was needed. If accepted, I will be coming to Elam with an open mind and a desire to make a positive contribution to the Elam community.

Thank you for considering me.

Fine arts have dependably been a passion of mine whether its design, photography, dance, drama or essentially just art, I have constantly utilised it as an effective system to express my personality. I firmly trust that art and imagination is the premise of why our reality proceeds with, we watch, notice, touch and hear the wonderful things around us. We continuously interpret the world through art, which is the reason everyones work is valuable. I believe that there isn't great or awful art since we interpret our vision and our view of the atmosphere we feel. That is what I adore about art, you can convey your goal regardless of what specialised capacities you have whether it's through music, dance, drama, art. Fine arts is adaptable and versatile which is the reason why I'm so enthusiastic and eager to selecting fine arts as a longtime career. Doing fine arts additionally has been a lifetime goal of mine since I started being associated with art, as I grew older I developed a more established understanding of fine arts I gained to believed that I used art practically similar to breathing even in the littlest ways I would utilise a type of art to present myself physically, emotionally and spiritually.

That is how I could explain my artwork that is displayed in this portfolio, I have tried to challenge myself by exploring a range of mediums such as: pencil, colour pencil, acrylic paint, wearable, photography and digital art. During the making process of this portfolio I have learnt a lot about my strengths and weaknesses as an artist. My artworks presented focus on my ability to create a creative artwork with meaning or an artwork simply showcasing technical ability. The first artwork entitled 'Feel it All Around' - for this artwork, I wanted to focus on overwhelming my audience by exaggerating facial features and incorporating multiple hands hopeful of communicating crazy characteristics of the figure adding to the intent. The second artwork entitled 'Kaleidoscope' – This artwork was created to showcase technical ability through use of colour pencils. The aim of the piece was to be visually appealing and have a non-literal colour scheme shown through the so I used the rainbow as a way to add tone to my artwork. This idea grew from the thought of Pink Floyds logo, so I decided to manipulate the image by portraying the bands logo whilst using my artwork. The third artwork entitled 'Distraction' - This artwork was originally a digital line art that I had previously done, so I decided to make it into a traditional drawing. The meaning was to communicate fictional self-identity; I used a character that I created called 'Elexiona' to communicate my meaning which was to juxtapose beauty and evilness. This was done by the beauty of the character distracting the audience from the heart that she's holding and the snakes that are in front of her which were to communicate sin. The fourth artwork entitled 'Alive', was purely made to communicate technical ability and diversity in skin tones, which was the first time attempting darker skin tones. Instead of keeping the original piece normal I decided to manipulate the image to add an interesting quality to it to make the artwork more interesting. The Fifth artwork 'It Means Nothing' - This was my first painting that I did last year for school, our unit was on paying 'homage' to another artist and their techniques I chose Frida Kahlo. Painting is my weakness medium but it was interesting to experiment with. The meaning was about reflection and how I felt about myself. Which was 'broken' this represented by the pillar inside my body, bees to communicate the jealousy of others and the dead raven to capture secrecy and repression towards these feelings. The Sixth artwork 'The Look' – This piece was based on the notion of the 'otherness', my focus was the culture of the Club Kids and how they express themselves. I did this by incorporating a wearable art featured in the digital magazine cover – I wanted the piece to be pretty and feminine this was accomplished by the use of fabrics such as ribbon, lace and pearls. The wearable was fully white because I wanted to contrast the concept of innocence with the provocativeness of the Club Kids. Photographed and layered in the magazine cover 'Project X' which was a magazine cover specific to the Club Kids. I made sure my recreation incorporated vibrant colours to express the avant-garde atmosphere of the Club Kids.

My passion and eagerness to improve myself is what drives me to study at Elam School of Fine Arts. I live and breathe with art in various ways through dance, drama, and art. I've always captured my life through an artistic way, always searching new for ways to alter the direction art goes in. Not only is my passion driving me to study at Elam, being one of the best art schools, the challenge is what is pushing me to study there because I'm always searching for challenge and willing working hard to achieve my goals. As well as the impeccable art that emerges from Elam which has inspired me throughout my schooling life which I why I am strongly driven to study at Elam.

## Elam Written Statement

Hello! My name is [REDACTED], I am a year thirteen student at [REDACTED] and I am extremely interested in studying Fine Arts at Elam in 2018.

To an athlete not exercising is unthinkable. To me, not brainstorming new ideas or picking up a camera for more than a few days is unimaginable.

I used to absolutely hate school, the only joy I found in a school day was the one art lesson where I could create and be free. I felt like I had nothing to offer after years of maths and science failures. Following after two really academic siblings knowing I could never live up to their achievements, art was my upper hand. *'I couldn't tell you what 12 x 34 is without a calculator but I can draw you a nifty portrait!'* As I grew I quickly discovered the importance of art in my little world. I learned that my world in fact isn't small at all. The limits of perspective are non-existent. There is no lid to contain the possibilities with art. No one there to say "no you can't, you're wrong" because you can! This is why I hold the idea I'll try anything in the name of art. I am beyond excited to explore and create with all that Elam has to offer if I were to be accepted!

The power art holds in the world is monumental. It is the absolute best way to communicate a perspective. Being able to share is crucial to the human experience, communicating to trigger common understanding, empathy and emotion. We all want to be valued, all want to be understood. A world without the ability for people to express, create and evolve is not one I ever want to live in. Art can make a huge impact without dropping a bomb or starting a war. Art is the heart of society much like bees are the heart of our ecosystems. Bees are drawn to flowers because of the vibrant colour then pollinate them essentially keeping the ecosystem alive. Art is confronting and eye catching, making you pay attention. Art is the flowers, people are the bees. As soon as people see an installation a conversation instantly sparks. I want to make things that have impact. Sculpture this year has really helped me process the issues I am passionate about; wealth inequality, animal agriculture, global warming and mass production of meat and dairy for consumption. It's been really fun seeing reactions whether they be disgusted, confused or interested!

One subject I am most drawn to while making art is the human face. I love faces, I could spend hours looking at a face. It amazes me the variation a face can show, the detail - nocks and cran- nies all packed into one thing. Each facial feature has it's own specific shape and style while making up a whole profile. I love to play with different ways you can present your face in an image. Clean, messy, bare, busy, disguised! Some of the artists that have amazed and inspired me include; Lucas David, Cindy Sherman, David Drake, Nan Goldin, Herb Ritts, Tony Oursler, The Starn Twins, Sally Mann, Yayoi Kusama, Judy Darragh and Adam Powell. Music is another thing I could never live without. I'm really inspired by the imagery music can create in your mind. When musicians and artists collaborate magic is made. Some of the musicians I love and look to for imagery are; Matty Healy, Krist Novoselic, Kurt Cobain, Gerard Way, The Beatles, Pink Floyd, Amy Winehouse, Frank Ocean and Fleetwood Mac. Lastly, film is amazing to me. The style, charisma and depth that a director can produce in a film absolutely inspires me. Some directors I adore are Wes Anderson, Martin Scorsese, Nicolas Winding Refn and Damien Chazelle. I have filmed and edited some of my own music video ideas to experiment with the cross over of film, music and art.

Ultimately I am restless to learn and play with all that can be done in the art world. In my life I want to truly know what makes up the world; the people, the places and significance, the cultures and all that comes along with those. I want to capture the world through a lens and make people really stop and look at what's around them. I know that at some point in my future I want to get involved in activism!

Thank you so much for considering me and reading my letter. I hope to hear from you soon!

Thank you



My name is [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. Currently I am a year 13 student at [REDACTED]. I have been involved with art at this school since I have first started here. At first this subject was not all that fun, I found the junior art program very strict with certain things. I understand now that I have to learn to balance my intuitive decisions and educational decision for them to be able to flow and work together.

I am also a part time skateboarder, and I can consider it as an art in its own form as there is movement, flow and plenty of energy. It can be a performance art. A fellow skateboarder who is very well known for making his work an art form is Mark Gonzales. He is also a large influence on the skateboarding community, potentially the art world but also myself for skateboarding and life in general.

I have been ranked as one of the top students in painting and sculpture this year. I guess I cannot take too much appreciation for that as I don't believe there should be such a thing as categorising developing artists. In a sense though I am quite appreciative of it as it is an achievement of something I love. I am wanting to enrol and join Elam to learn and experiment a wider range of skills as normal schooling does not have this on offer with the arts. I have heard that Elam is a contemporary school, meaning this will allow me to age and develop with art, therefore certain that I will be able to one day become an artist.

I am wanting to be able to become a part of a community where I as an individual can be able to converse with others with similar minds and also different. Why I say this is because we are trying to enter a university that attracts all our attention therefore we already have something in common. I would like to be able to experience a wider perspective of knowledge from other individuals. This will allow me to potentially expand on my own knowledge and understanding of specific subjects, topics, experiences, religions, cultures. Elam, I believe, could help influence my creativity as I could potentially gather many more ideas which will enable me to create something worth creating.

Thank you for taking the time to read this,

[REDACTED]

## Written Statement

To whom it may concern,

My name is [REDACTED]. I am a year 13 student at [REDACTED] who appeals to you in the hopes of being granted a position at the esteemed Elam School of Fine Arts.

I am deeply interested in Elam as my choice of art school because I believe Elam offers an environment in which I would be able to further my artistic practice and knowledge. I am especially interested in its multidisciplinary approach. Because of the limited disciplines that NCEA offers, I have primarily adopted drawing and painting as my two main artistic practices. However, as my portfolio shows, I show a willingness and ability to experiment with different disciplines and modes of expression. Moreover, I am excited to be a part of the supportive milieu that Elam provides. I remember being told in a lecture during the Auckland University Open Day that the Elam School operated much like a family where dialogue is promoted and encouraged. This communicative aspect particularly appealed to me. However, while I am aware that it is a supportive environment, I am also sure that I would be challenged in a constructive way should I be granted a position at Elam.

I love art because it allows me to express myself in a way that is interesting and personal. As most creative individuals, I was artistic as a child and always enjoyed drawing and doodling whatever image my imagination conjured up. I continued to study it in high school and learnt new ways in which I could express those images, whether it be by an increase in my drawing skill or a knowledge in new processes and media. Creativity and the concept of creation is something that I cherish and constantly try to cultivate within myself. It plays a deep part in my spirituality.

In the future I plan on becoming a high school art teacher, and intend to complete a teaching diploma after completing a Bachelor of Fine Arts. I actually plan on returning to my high school to teach there, as a way of giving back to my community. As I said before, creativity is something that I profoundly enjoy cultivating, and I would like to foster that same spirit of creativity in the next generation. The creation of art, to me, is the pursuit of beauty.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Zane' or similar, with a stylized, flowing script.

[REDACTED]

## Written Statement

My name is [REDACTED] and I am currently Year 13 at [REDACTED] and hope I to study at Elam next year. A simple way of putting it is that art has always been in my soul, it is therapy for me and it helps me to understand myself as a person. I believe with all my heart that art has given me a purpose in this world. To be a spokesperson and activist for the voices that go unheard, in the hopes that my work speaks volumes to any audience. It is a necessity to me as a queer person of color to do so, to advocate for societal change toward the “outsiders” in our country.

I am extremely eager to learn, better my craft, evolve as an artist and to submerge myself into a Fine Arts education. This will be to my advantage as my creative being longs for growth and development. I long to increase the complexity of the ideas and creations that erupt from my hands and body and I know that Elam will enable me to do this. Knowledge is power and I strongly believe that Bachelors of Fine Arts at Elam will not only continue nurture my creativity but also change my life forever, as a young emerging artist. I feel it is a safe space for me as a Tongan and Maori person. I have visited Elam a few times now for open days/workshops and with every visit, I felt a sense of Whanaungatanga, as if I were already home, especially from the progressive and inclusive posters for no tolerance for any forms of discrimination which resonated with me very much!

My entire experience through my secondary education at [REDACTED] has been one of great importance to me. I have had the most amazing painting teacher, [REDACTED] whom taught & nourished my creative soul for 4 years. She always gave me creative freedom and put all her trust in me, which allowed me to push certain boundaries deemed inappropriate for a secondary level. This makes me believe that I am not like most art students, not only am I independent but I am fearless. In demonstrating skills and techniques with various mediums and forms of art, while prolifically creating diverse works.

I have always been allowed to experiment in a broad range of mediums, use provocative imagery, symbols and text as a method of sending messages to the viewer. I challenge rigid, stereotypical thinking and religious dogmas in a subversive manner, to reflect and expose the oppression of minorities such as women, people of color, queer people and gender variant individuals.

In regards to the work I submitted I wanted to showcase the development and ideas that I explored in the past two years. This year my motivation to paint was **‘the demonization of women, queer people, gender non-conforming peoples and other minorities from religious text and the old world’** and to study how an old hierarchical world influenced a new world of oppression toward those who aren’t white, heterosexual, cisgender males. In most of my works I depict women or feminine figures as powerful almost Godly forces, challenging the male dominance in Christian texts that we enforce even to today. I also submitted works of figures that are visual representations of the demonization of minorities, heavily inspired by Lady Gaga’s Born This Way which is an anthem for acceptance, self-love and a pivotal moment for the LGBT

community. In which she sports facial horn prosthetics, to say no matter your race,gender or sex that we are all born perfect and we have all the right to love ourselves. She and her album were the muse for these mass creations of horned “demonic” figures, all metaphors for the demons the church and bigots portrays us as.

In 2016, the ideas in my photography were inspired by Masculinity in our modern society. How in my Tongan and Maori cultures, men are raised to fit in a certain hypermasculine mould, and even I myself.

The photo works are self portraits that depict myself, wearing red lipstick and makeup, as visual statement, that femininity and masculinity co-exists within all of us, that men should be able to show femininity and sensitivity without scrutiny. I decided to collage the works using a collection of red lips, being a symbol of femininity. The lips flourish in a floral design from my face symbolising the divine feminine within us all, coming out and proudly living our lives carefree of the masculine confines that trap us all as Pacific/Maori men.

I have worked and collaborated with **The Creative Souls Project** in **Project: Aranga**. A Project which pursued young artists to revive “dead” spaces around my town of [REDACTED] by creating extraordinary works of art in them. The final outcomes were exhibited around my community. Also my work along with other young artists have also been exhibited in [REDACTED] Art Gallery for an exhibition that **Amiria Puia Taylor** curated, “ **Thinking Globally, Acting Locally**.” which showcased our interpretations [REDACTED] means to us. It was extremely amazing getting this type of experience at my young age, getting a taste of collaboration and exhibition preparing me for the future.

I has been nominated and awarded multiple times which is extremely humbling. They include a Pat Hanly Creativity award, finalist in the Sixth Wallace Secondary Schools Art Awards, and for every year I have received high honors in Art at [REDACTED]. So I strongly believe that I am capable and possess the character, academic, creative ability and Mana to succeed in tertiary study.

Thank you for your time

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