

EDUCATION

1998-2001: Bachelor of three dimensional design (hons), Jewellery major, Unitec Institute of Technology, Auckland

2020-2021: Participant in [HandShake6](#) project, mentored by Manon Van Kouswijk. Includes three day masterclass with Iris Eichenberg, online series of masterclasses with Estela Saez, Push/Pull workshops with Renee Bevan.

2022: Participant in [HandShake7](#) project which culminates in an exhibition at Galerie Marzee, Holland in 2022. Includes online series of masterclasses with Estela Saez, Push/Pull workshop with Renee Bevan, critical feedback from Galerie Marzee artists and Sarah McClintock, curator of the Suter Gallery, NZ.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

2022: Selected participant in [HandShake7](#) project, organised by Makers101 and supported by Creative New Zealand Kahikatea Investment funding

2020-2021: Selected participant in [HandShake6](#) project to be mentored by Manon Van Kouswijk, organised by Makers101 and supported by Creative New Zealand Kahikatea Investment funding

2019: Arts funding from Whau Local Board to install [Talisman3](#) and conduct a [workshop](#) during Whau Arts festival

2018: Creative Communities Scheme Grant from Hutt Valley Council towards touring [The Valere Talisman Project](#) to various community libraries and hubs locations around Hutt Valley

Grant from the Dowse Art Museum towards costs to present [Valere Talisman Project](#) during All that Glitters opening weekend for The Language of Things exhibition.

2017: Arts funding from Whau Local Board towards touring [The Valere Talisman Project](#) to various community libraries and hubs locations around the Whau, Auckland

Creative New Zealand Arts Grant funding towards participating in [Yoveo](#) exhibition, to be held during Radiant Pavilion in Melbourne. Curated by Kevin Murray

2014: Grant from the Wallace Arts Trust towards artist residency at Arquetopia, Oaxaca, Mexico

2013: Creative New Zealand Arts Grant funding for a publication to accompany the 'Talisman' project in collaboration with Roger Kelly

2012: Creative New Zealand Arts Grant funding for 'Talisman' project in collaboration with Roger Kelly

2006: Merit award Manukau Vessel and Sculpture Exhibition, Manukau City Council

2005: Enterprise Allowance Scheme, Grant for capital costs and ongoing support to develop small businesses, NZ Government

PUBLICATIONS

2019: Crafting Aotearoa: A Cultural History of Making in New Zealand and the Wider Moana Oceania. Edited by Karl Chitham, Kolokesa Māhina-Tuai and Damian Skinner, Te Papa Press, NZ

2015: Fingers: jewellery for Aotearoa New Zealand. By Damian Skinner and Finn McCahon-Jones. David Bateman, Auckland

2014: The Talisman Project (booklet to accompany touring exhibition), Roger Kelly and Mia Straka. Q and A with Karl Chitham

COLLECTIONS

Work is held in various private collections and in the permanent public collection of the The James Wallace Arts Trust, Auckland, NZ

PUBLIC COMMISSIONS

2000: Necklace presented to Prime Minister Helen Clark by Unitec Institute of Technology

SOLO/COLLABORATIVE EXHIBITIONS

2019 [Schmetterlinge Rising](#), Allpress Studio, Auckland, NZ

2018 [Schmetterlinge](#), St Paul St Gallery Three, Auckland, NZ

2015 [The Talisman Project](#), Collaboration with Roger Kelly, Tauranga Art Gallery, NZ

2014 [The Talisman Project](#), Collaboration with Roger Kelly, Objectspace, Auckland, NZ

[Talisman Installation](#), Solo iteration at Pah Homestead, Auckland, NZ

Talisman Installation, Hawke's Bay Museum Theatre Gallery, Napier, NZ

2011 [Model/Jewellery](#), Jewellery Box feature artist Masterworks, Gallery, Auckland, NZ

2010 SuperStructures with Cheryl Sills, Royal Jewellery Studio, Auckland, NZ

SuperStructures with Cheryl Sills, The National, Christchurch, NZ

2009 [Radiate](#), Fingers, Auckland, NZ

Radiate, Inform Gallery, Christchurch, NZ

2007 Mind's I, Windowspace installation, Objectspace, Auckland

2006 Jewellery Box, Feature artist Masterworks Gallery, Auckland

2005 Jewellery Installation UNIC Salon, Zurich, Switzerland

2004 Eisblumen with Lisa Fed, J.F. Galerie, Zurich, Switzerland

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2022

[Glimmer](#), Handshake6 exhibition at Whirinaki Whare Taonga, Lower Hutt, NZ

2021

[ChainReaction](#), The Refinery, NZ Jewellery Week, Nelson, NZ [Review](#)

Series of short [videos](#) for online exhibition resulting from Estela Saez masterclass, published on HandShake [website](#).

Fingers Annual Group Show

2020

[HandShake in Hamilton](#), Handshake6 exhibition at Weasel Gallery, Hamilton, NZ

Creating with Kauri, Kauri Museum, Matakoho, NZ

Orca Gallery, community exhibition, Rakino Island, Auckland, NZ

Signing In, Te Auaha, Wellington, NZ

2019

Whau Arts Festival - Talisman3 Installation at All Goods Whau Arts Space, Avondale, Auckland, NZ

TempFest - Talisman3 Installation at Whakanewha Regional Park, curated by Kristin D'Agostino, Waiheke Island, NZ

Small Sculpture Showcase, curated by Linda Chalmers, Waiheke Art Gallery, Waiheke Island, NZ

Fingers Annual Group Show (and every year since 2006), Fingers, Auckland, NZ

2018

All that Glitters opening event for The Language of Things exhibition, curated by Sian Van Dyk, The Dowse, Porirua, NZ

Face to Face, curated by Claire Ulenberg, Arthaus Orakei, Auckland

Molly Morpeth Canaday 3D Award exhibition, Te Kōputu a te whanga a Toi - Whakatāne Library and Exhibition Centre, NZ

In Co-Operation, A collaborative exhibition for residency mates at the Abteilung für Alles Andere · Berlin, Germany

Pacific Royal - 20th Anniversary Exhibition, Royal Jewellery Studio, Auckland, NZ

ArtWest, community art fundraising exhibition, Kelston Girls College, Auckland, NZ

2017

Talisman for Voveo, curated by Kevin Murray, held during Radiant Pavilion, City Library, Melbourne, Australia

Onehunga Art Day, Interstellar Matter Installation, Auckland, NZ

Sculpture in the Gardens Exhibition, Huakaiwaka Visitor Centre, Auckland Botanic Gardens, Manurewa, NZ

2016

Molly Morpeth Canaday 3D Award exhibition, Te Kōputu a te whanga a Toi - Whakatāne Library and Exhibition Centre, NZ

Playthings Contemporary Jewellery exhibition, curated by Stella Chrysostomou, The Refinery Artspace, Nelson, NZ

Meltdown, Debrasic, Thames, NZ

Winter Exhibition at Waiheke Community Gallery, Auckland, NZ

2015

Fine Company, curated by Kathryn Tsui, Corban Art Estate Gallery, Henderson, Auckland, NZ

R.A.W. Reactions After Wunderruma, curated by Jo Mears, Gallery One Oh Eight, Auckland, NZ

2014

X Celebrating Ten Years, The National, Christchurch, NZ

Fingers 40th Anniversary Group Show, Fingers and Objectspace, Auckland, NZ

Workshop6 21st Anniversary Show, Fingers, Auckland, NZ

Whakarakai, Matariki exhibition curated by Matt Blomeley, The NZ Steel Gallery, Auckland, NZ

2013

15th Anniversary Group Show 'The Unbroken Circle' Royal Jewellery Studio, Auckland, NZ

Matariki Star & Cloak, NZ Academy of Fine Arts, Wellington, NZ

Neckware 10, (and most years from 2003) curated by Warwick Freeman, Masterworks Gallery, Auckland, NZ

White Night Installation, Auckland Art Festival, Collezioni Boutique, Remuera, Auckland, NZ

2012

Art Mile Installation, Auckland Art Week, Jamie boutique, Ponsonby, Auckland, NZ

Materialism, Royal Jewellery Studio, Auckland, NZ

Winter brooch exhibition, Royal Jewellery Studio, Auckland, NZ

Objective, Mangere Arts Centre, Auckland, NZ

Jewelism, Fingers, Auckland, NZ

2011

Zeitgeist Shrapnel, Fingers, Auckland, NZ

2010

Regal award exhibition, National Jewellery Show, Sky City Convention Centre, Auckland

The Jewellery Show, Masterworks Gallery, Auckland

Objective, Mangere Arts Centre, Auckland

2009

Cornucopia, Masterworks Gallery, Auckland

5 Years, Inform, Christchurch

Regal award exhibition, National Jewellery Show, Sky City Convention Centre, Auckland

Aotearoa, Quoil, Wellington

Black and White, Quoil, Wellington

2008

Shine, jewellery performance event Paramount Theatre, Wellington

Treasure Trove, Masterworks Gallery, Auckland

Twelve Days of Christmas, Royal Jewellery Studio, Auckland

2007

White, Pablo Fanque, Sydney

Permit, Fingers, Auckland

Airnz Fashion Week Exhibition, Auckland

MossThreadStapleWood, Inform, Christchurch

Mid Winter Show, Studio66, Gisborne

Brooches, Inform, Christchurch

Objective, Nathan Homestead, Manukau, Auckland

2006

Molly Morpeth-Canada 3D Exhibition, Whakatane Museum, Whakatane

20 Years of Unitec Jewellery Design-work by leading graduates, Fingers. Auckland

Manukau Vessel and Sculpture Exhibition, Nathan Homestead, Manukau, Auckland

Neckware VII, Masterworks Gallery, Auckland

2005

Brooch Exhibition, Masterworks Gallery, Auckland

Neckware VI, Masterworks Gallery, Auckland

2004

Link, SchmuKu-Ku Atelier, Zug, Switzerland

2003

Neckware III, Masterworks Gallery, Auckland

2001

Elixir, Jewellery by recent Unitec graduates, The Odeon, Auckland

Body as Site, Logan Campbell Centre, Auckland

WORKSHOPS AND PROJECTS

2022: Participant in Handshake7 series of online masterclasses for work development with Estela Saez

2021: Participant in Handshake6 series of online exhibition masterclasses with Estela Saez

Participant in Handshake6 Push/Pull workshop with Renee Bevan, Auckland, NZ

2020: Participant in Handshake6 3 day masterclass with Iris Eichenberg, Auckland, NZ

Participant in Handshake6 Push/Pull workshop with Renee Bevan, Auckland, NZ

2019: Leading a [Talisman3](#) making workshop during Whau Arts Festival, Avondale, Auckland, NZ

Leading a two day jewellery making workshop with Tangaroa College Students at Workshop6, Auckland, NZ

Presentation talk on Contemporary jewellery in NZ and conducting The Valere Talisman Project with students and staff at Tangaroa College, Otara, NZ

Participant in weaving workshop with Evelyn White and Waipoua Teddy, All Goods Whau Art Space, Avondale, NZ

2018: Part of Makers101 team to install and present IWA: NZ Makers, Frame Galleries, Handwerk Messe, Munich, Germany

The Valere Talisman Project, toured to lower North Island locations including [Whakatane Museum and Gallery](#), [Hutt Valley community hubs](#) including Taita, Koraunui, Wainuiomata, Naenae and [The Dowse Art Museum](#), Porirua, NZ

2017: The Valere Talisman Project, toured to community libraries and hubs at locations around The Whau including Blockhouse Bay, New Lynn, and Avondale, Auckland, NZ

Interactive installation to accompany KnotTouch exhibition plus leading a series of knot making jewellery workshops at The Maritime Museum, Auckland, NZ

Leading weekend jewellery workshop with St Kentigern College Students at Workshop6, Auckland, NZ

2016: Leading weekend jewellery workshop with St Kentigern College Students at Workshop6, Auckland, NZ

2015: Leading Talisman Project 3D making workshop with young people at Tauranga Art Gallery, Tauranga, NZ

Participant in 'Seam Work' weekend workshop with Vito Bila, MIT, Auckland, NZ

Participant in 'A Matter of Life and Death, Food Death and the Table', day long masterclass with David Clarke, Dunedin School of Art, NZ

Technician/Participant in 'Wunder Workshop', 2 day workshop with Octavia Cook, Workshop6, Auckland, NZ

Participant in weaving workshop with Judy Te Hiwi, Kaipatiki Project Environment Centre, Auckland, NZ

Volunteer mentor to Year 9 Onehunga High School student for year long Project K programme, the Dingle Foundation, Auckland, NZ

2012: Glass making two day intensive workshop with Te Rongo Kirkwood, Wainui Auckland, NZ

Volunteer artist for 14 days on The Great Samoan Volunteer Trip, with Spinning Top charity and the Samoan Victim Support Group, Apia, Samoa

2011-2015: The Talisman Project, a collaborative project with Roger Kelly resulting in large scale interactive sculptures, art objects and photographic works, installed in various locations, see www.thetalismanproject.com

2011-2012: Broach of the Month Club: brooch maker for BOM, Masterworks Gallery and Kristin D'Agostino: bommasterworks.wordpress.com

2011: "Longing and Belongings" five day intensive workshop with Manon Van Kouswijk RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia

2006: Helen Britton workshop MIT Auckland

2006: Susan Cross workshop MIT Auckland

2004: Mentored by Brigitte Moser Zug Switzerland

ARTIST RESIDENCIES

2018: One month residency in April 2018, hosted by the Institut für Alles Mögliche at the Hauptstadtstudio in Friedrichshain, Berlin

2014: Saint Kentigern College, Auckland, NZ. Week long residency on campus directing a group project with year 9 students to make their own site specific sculptures, alongside making my own installation to be displayed within the College on long term loan.

2014: Arquetopia, Oaxaca, Mexico. Six week instructional residency in pre-hipanic backstrap loom weaving and basket weaving techniques alongside a personal research project into mapping.

EMPLOYMENT

2019-2022: Board Advisor for Makers101

2002-Present: Self-employed artist

2008-Present: Partner at Workshop6 collective jewellery workshop

2018: Part of the IWA: NZ Makers team at FRAME, Handwerksmesse International Trade Fair Munich, Germany

2016-2018: Part-time sole-charge role at Royal Jewellery Studio, Auckland, NZ

2015-2017: Manukau School of Visual Arts, part-time senior lecturer, Jewellery department.

2005-2014: Part-time sole-charge role at Fingers Jewellery, Auckland

2006-2018: Mentor to various jewelers and artists on PACE (government funded artist support program)

2011: Casual workshop assistant to glass artist TeRongo Kirkwood, Auckland

2005-2009: Part-time assistant jeweller to Jane Dodd, Workshop6, Auckland

2008: Made to order range for Juliette Hogan flagship store

2007: Launched 'Boutique' collection at AirNZ Fashion Week, Designer Showroom

2006: Commissioned by Helen Cherry to provide limited edition jewellery collection for eponymous designer fashion label

2006: Set up shared workshop within Satellite Gallery, Auckland

2005: Set up studio in shared space at Corban Art Estate, Auckland

2004-2005: Workbench in SchmuKuKu Atelier of Brigitte Moser, Zug, Switzerland

2002-2004: Jeweller for Laura Lee Jewellery, London

2001-2002: Part-time assistant jeweller to Anna Wallis, Workshop6

Web: miastraka.com

Blog: <http://mia-straka.squarespace.com/>

Instagram: [@miastraka](https://www.instagram.com/miastraka)

Project: www.thetalismanproject.com

Facebook: [Mia-Straka-Jewellery-objects-and-projects](https://www.facebook.com/Mia-Straka-Jewellery-objects-and-projects)