



**Leonie  
Ngahuia  
Mansbridge**

Dan Grant, *Leonie Ngahuia Mansbridge Portrait*, 2023, digital image.

## About the Artist

Born in Aotearoa (New Zealand) Leonie Ngahuia Mansbridge now resides on Walyalup country (Fremantle). Her creative arts practice is key to her storytelling. She engages with issues of culture and colonisation. Working to explore her cultural understanding Mansbridge paints the land as an extension of who she is, acting as a conduit through to her indigenous heritage.

In 2018, Mansbridge completed a Creative Doctorate, "The Cross-Cultural Corridor: Performing Māori/Pākehā Identities" at Curtin University. She also holds a Masters of Arts (Visual Arts), with distinction, and a Bachelor of Arts (Art) (Honours) First Class, from Curtin University. In 2014, 2018 and 2022, Mansbridge presented papers at Indigenous conferences in New Zealand, Canada and Australia.

She has exhibited consistently for twenty years in Australia and abroad. Mansbridge has gallery representations in New Zealand, Ireland and France and has been the recipient of numerous art awards.



Rockingham Arts Centre  
11 Kent Street,  
Rockingham

### Gallery opening times:

Wednesday – Sunday  
10am – 4pm

### Contact:

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artscentre@rockingham.wa.gov.au  
rockingham.wa.gov.au/exhibitions



rockingham.wa.gov.au



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## Acknowledgement of Country

The City of Rockingham acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land, the Binjareb and Whadjuk Nyoongar peoples and their continuing connection to the land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all members of Aboriginal communities and their cultures, and to Elders past and present.



## Dismantling the Land

**Leonie Ngahuia Mansbridge**  
27 March – 14 April 2024

Leonie Ngahuia Mansbridge, *Negotiating The Land*, 2023, synthetic polymer on truck tarpaulin, 262 x190 cm. Image credit: Jude van der Merwe



Leonie Ngahuia Mansbridge, *Folded Into Two Worlds*, 2024, synthetic polymer on truck tarpaulin, dimensions variable. Image credit: Aaron Claringbold

Leonie Ngahuia Mansbridge, *Topology of Space*, 2024, synthetic polymer on truck tarpaulin, dimensions variable. Image credit: Aaron Claringbold

## Exhibition information

Land is central to our identity as Māori people of Aotearoa (New Zealand), the land postulates an awareness of belonging, Māori spiritual belonging to the land encompasses our identity, physical and spiritual, and integral to the survival and wellbeing.

'Ko au te whenua, ko te whenua, ko au' – 'I am the land and the land is me'.

Land can be seen as a heterotopia space, it cannot be entered into but rather journeyed through, Michel Foucault (1926 – 1984) described this space as having more layers of meaning that meet the eye.

Mansbridge's process of folding and unfolding is something that is always buried beneath, it can be seen to unsettle the dichotomies between now and then, difference and identity, by which each fold is pulled into the other, and reveals itself as both its own present and past.

Western art regards landscape as something a person looks upon. There is distance between the viewer and the land, as if viewing the scene through a window. Mansbridge is actively moving through the landscape. We are part of the land, not separate from it. These insights freed Mansbridge to make art that was part of her instead of what others expected of her.

Mansbridge's materials, processes and methodology are consistent throughout her oeuvre. There is a story to tell relating to themes of cultural identity, loss of culture and land displacement.



Leonie Ngahuia Mansbridge, *The Road to Nowhere*, 2024, synthetic polymer on truck tarpaulin, dimensions variable. Image credit: Aaron Claringbold



Leonie Ngahuia Mansbridge, *The Land is Us*, 2024, synthetic polymer on truck tarpaulin, dimensions variable. Image credit: Aaron Claringbold