



Nic Compton

Raymond George
Meckenstock, *Nic Compton*,
2023, digital print.

About the Artist

Nic Compton is an artist practicing on Ballardong (York) country. He studied at Claremont School of Art and Curtin University.

Raised in Aotearoa (New Zealand), Compton is connected to his tupuna, his Maori ancestors through growing up in the same landscape of hills, rivers and deep gullies inland of Lake Wairarapa and the nearby beaches of the south east coast of the North Island, particularly Riversdale Beach. Where his grandmother dove for paua on the rocks her grandparents knew.

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.



Rockingham Arts Centre
11 Kent Street,
Rockingham

Gallery opening times:
Wednesday – Sunday
10am – 4pm

Contact:
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rockingham.wa.gov.au/exhibitions



rockingham.wa.gov.au



Nic Compton, *Unfurling*, 2023,
Jarrah, 50 x 80cm.
Image credit: Eva Fernandez



Life Unfurling

Nic Compton
21 June – 16 July 2023



Nic Compton, *Matriarch*, 2023,
Jarrah, 270 x 40 x 20cm.
Image credit: Eva Fernandez

Life Unfurling

by Nic Compton

Being raised in Aotearoa, Compton's practice is influenced by Maori imagery and broader Pacific carving styles. His works are his own interpretations of these carving traditions. He utilises the 'Koru' or unfurled shoot of a fern, a Maori carving symbol and organic shapes from land and sea throughout this body of work.

Living away from Aotearoa for so long, Compton reflects on his absorption of culture as a child. Being exposed to strong traditions, especially in carving has no doubt influenced Compton as an artist.

Drawing on his personal experiences of walking and canoeing in natural environments both here and in Aotearoa, Compton sees these works as an expression of the life force that is within plant and animal life, both on land and in the ocean. The works show the cycle of life and death as the plant or animal is in stages of growth and decay. Compton would like to challenge our understanding of life in a changing climate.

The sculptures in this exhibition are created using recycled timber from Western Australian trees. Several are carved from the heart wood of an old growth Jarrah tree that was removed from Sawyers Valley. Compton honours the materials of these once-living trees, while challenging our understanding of our changing climate.



Nic Compton, *Endemic*, 2023,
Jarrah, 100 x 50 x 25cm.
Image credit: Eva Fernandez