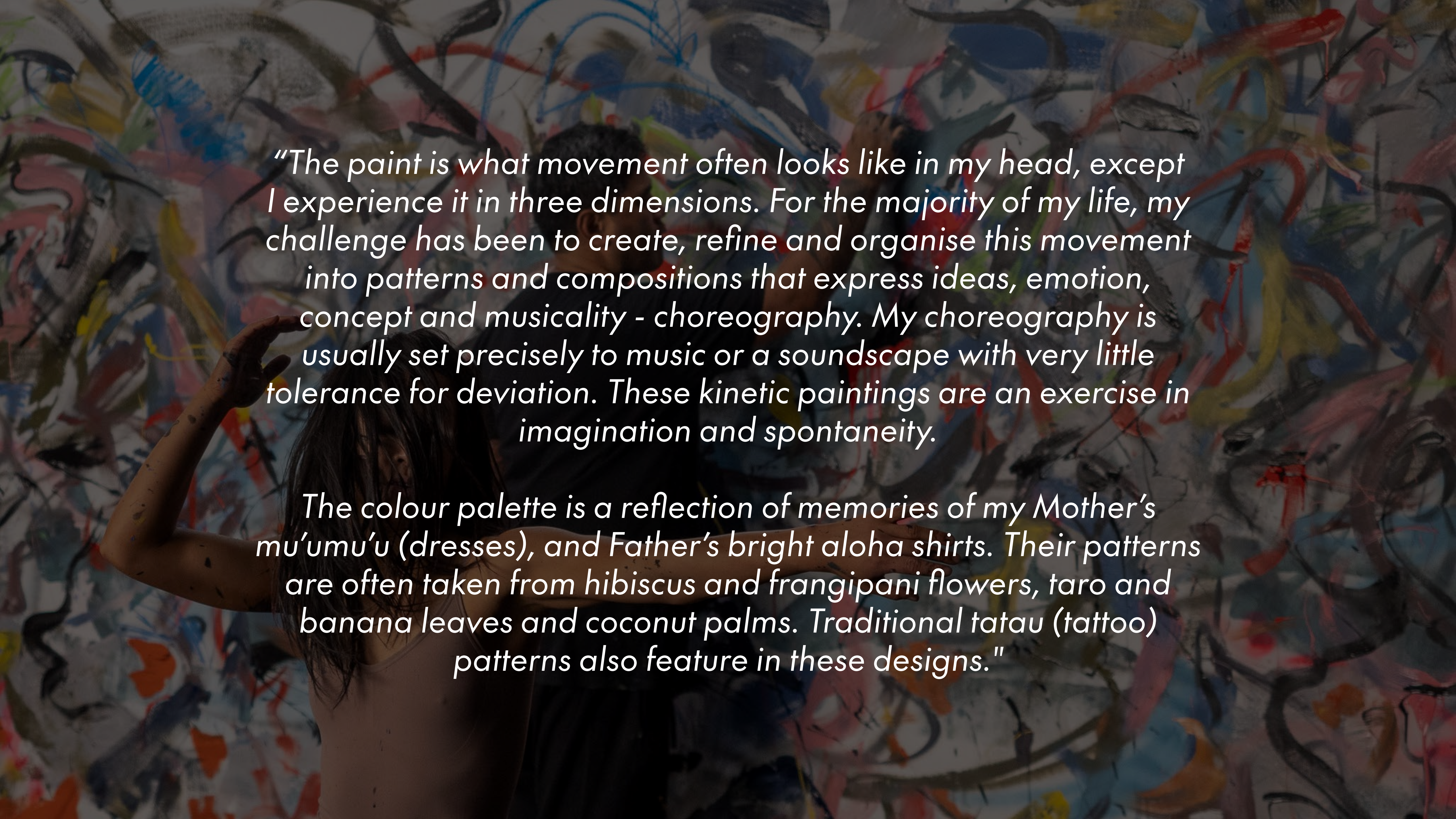


# 세계의 문화유산 이해하기 의 중요성

INFORMATION PACK  
APRIL 2024

*The Art of Black Grace* is a series of state-of-the-art, architectural, digital and immersive dance experiences suitable for the whole family, created in Aotearoa, by Black Grace Founder Neil Ieremia, ONZM.

*The Art of Black Grace 2/5* is based on a series of kinetic movement paintings by Neil Ieremia and the Black Grace dancers.



*"The paint is what movement often looks like in my head, except I experience it in three dimensions. For the majority of my life, my challenge has been to create, refine and organise this movement into patterns and compositions that express ideas, emotion, concept and musicality - choreography. My choreography is usually set precisely to music or a soundscape with very little tolerance for deviation. These kinetic paintings are an exercise in imagination and spontaneity.*

*The colour palette is a reflection of memories of my Mother's mu'umu'u (dresses), and Father's bright aloha shirts. Their patterns are often taken from hibiscus and frangipani flowers, taro and banana leaves and coconut palms. Traditional tataou (tattoo) patterns also feature in these designs."*

"As a child I considered myself a modern and sophisticated New Zealander and found the bright colours and patterns that adorned my parent's clothes somewhat embarrassing and simple. Over time I came to realise that I was viewing them through a westernised lens and had missed the cultural significance, personal and collective pride they represented for the wearer.

These paintings, the process and its presentation is my interpretation of that beauty, pride and strength that I had let slip through my fingers as a kid. It is also an exploration of identity and expression of defiance."

– Neil Jeremia

*“The Art of Black Grace 2/5 experience is visionary and captivating - a wonderful blend of visual art, dance and music and proud representation of Pacific art.”*

– JOHN GOW, FOUNDER CONNELLS BAY SCULPTURE PARK



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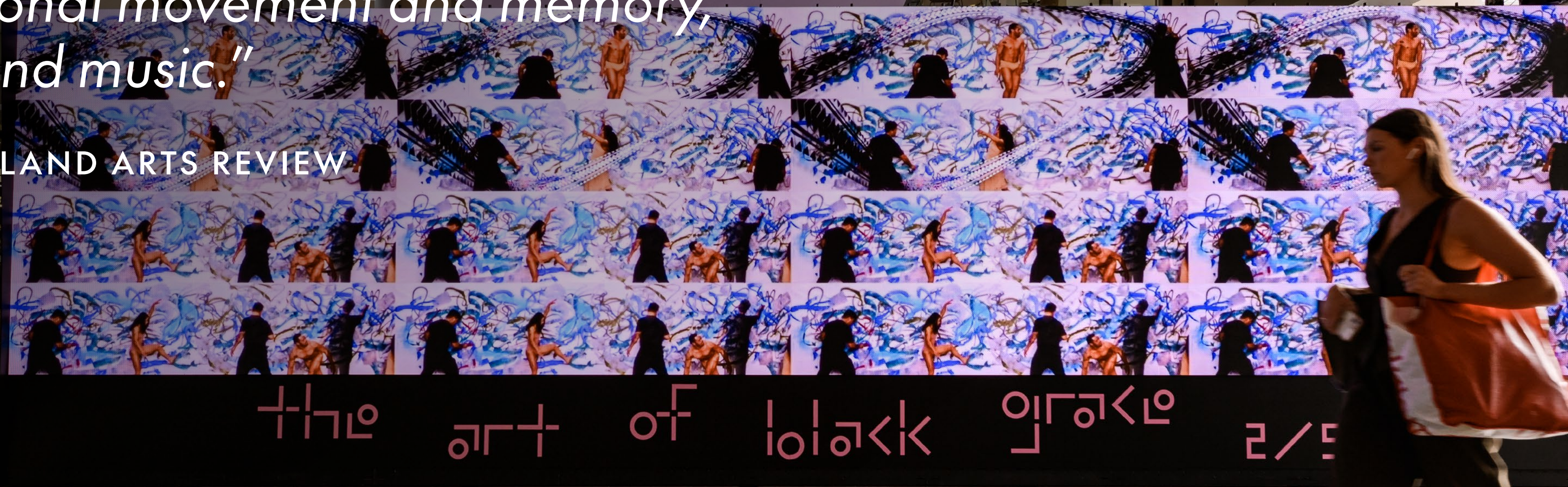


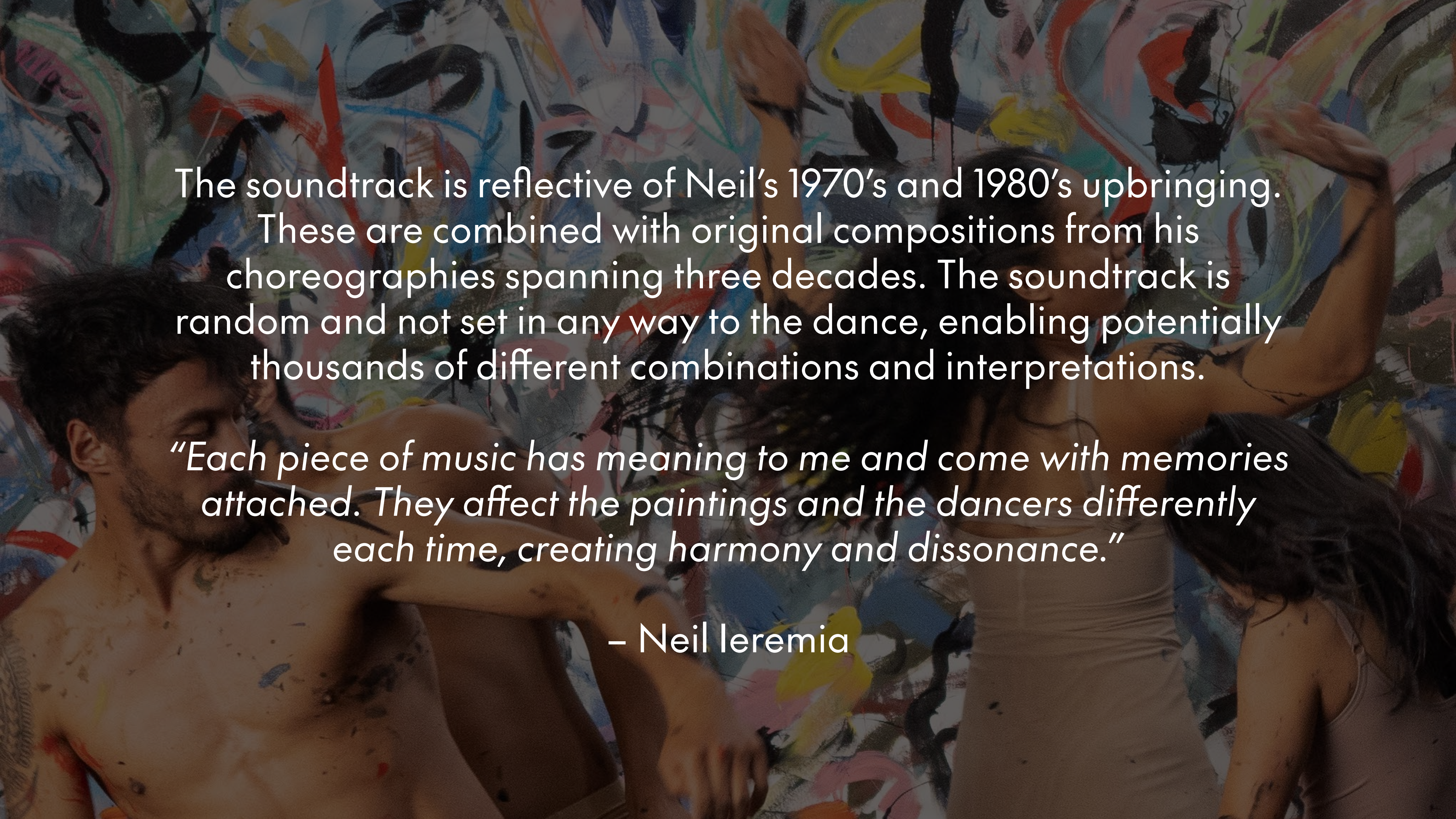
This experience uses sophisticated technology to immerse audiences in an extraordinary world of dance, art and music.

It is a fully transportable, modular project. It can be scaled up and down to suit the venue — indoor or outdoor, in arenas, warehouses, museums or existing galleries.

*“Neil Jeremia is putting his private mind on public display – in all its guises... one of constant three-dimensional movement and memory, colour and music.”*

– NEW ZEALAND ARTS REVIEW





The soundtrack is reflective of Neil's 1970's and 1980's upbringing. These are combined with original compositions from his choreographies spanning three decades. The soundtrack is random and not set in any way to the dance, enabling potentially thousands of different combinations and interpretations.

*"Each piece of music has meaning to me and come with memories attached. They affect the paintings and the dancers differently each time, creating harmony and dissonance."*

– Neil Jeremia



Click here to view the [trailer](#)

*"I loved the concept of this mahi, the artist working in time to the dancers, the free flow of paint and movement, everything felt fresh, liberated and responsive. In a nutshell, watching The Art of Black Grace 2/5 made me happy."*

**- ELLIE LIM , PROGRAMME PRODUCER, CULTURAL COMMUNITIES AND YOUTH, AUCKLAND ART GALLERY**



## STRUCTURE

The experience was initially designed for two back to back 8.5m x 2.5m LED walls and files set up to a 4.3:1 aspect ratio.

This experience may be scaled up and down to suit the venue and lends itself to either LED or projection.





## ACCESS

The Art of Black Grace 2/5 premiered in a public space, was free to access and ran on a 24h loop, enabling audiences to wander past and enjoy the experience in their own time.

While the experience is suitable to be ticketed, we encourage making the experience as accessible as possible to audiences.

## CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Neil Ieremia, ONZM

Founding Artistic Director, Black Grace

Neil Ieremia is arguably New Zealand's most accomplished choreographers, a creative entrepreneur and inspirational leader.

Born in Wellington and of Samoan heritage, Mr Ieremia was raised in a tough working class neighbourhood in a country focused more on sporting prowess and agriculture rather than creative expression. At the age of nineteen and with no formal training, Mr Ieremia resigned from his banking job, left home, enrolled in a full time dance programme and broke his parents' hearts.

As a freelance professional dancer, Mr Ieremia worked with many leading New Zealand choreographers as well as creating a number of commissioned works before founding Black Grace in 1995.

Numerous 'firsts' for a New Zealand choreographer include sell-out performances at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival (USA debut 2004 and 2005), a four-week season on New York City's 42nd Street, performances at the renowned Cervantino Festival in Mexico, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and the 2010 Cultural Olympiad in Vancouver.

Among his many other achievements, Mr Ieremia has received a 2005 Arts Foundation of New Zealand Laureate Award, and the 2009 Paul D. Fleck Fellowship in the Arts from The Banff Centre, Canada. In 2015, Mr Ieremia received a City of Porirua Anniversary Award and the Senior Pacific Artist Award from Creative New Zealand. In 2016, he was appointed an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to dance and in 2021, he was a recipient of a Kea World Class Award and was inducted into the Porirua Hall of Fame. In 2022 Neil Ieremia and Black Grace received the inaugural Moana Creative Enterprise Award at the 2022 Pacific Business Trust Awards. Neil is an Honorary Member of Dance ICONS and a global Ambassador for What Dance Can Do.





## SPECIFICATIONS

17 minutes in duration

Screen Size: 8.5m x 2m  
Square Meterage: 32 sqm

Video Resolution: 5120 × 1190  
Ratio: 4.3:1

## THE FUTURE

*The Art of Black Grace* will ultimately be comprised of five individual experiences that can travel independently or presented as a collective experience.

THE ART OF BLACK GRACE 1/5 – 2/5

Available for presentation now



THE ART OF BLACK GRACE 3/5

Currently in development



THE ART OF BLACK GRACE 4/5 – 5/5

Completed in 2025

## ADDITIONAL ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Additional engagement opportunities may be discussed and could include artist talks, dance workshops, aspects of live performance.







FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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the art of making images 2/5

THE ART OF BLACK GRACE 2 / 5

This information pack has been published in **April 2024**

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