

WESLEY JOHN FOURIE
AND WITH HIS KISS I BECAME A BRAIDED RIVER

I lay there
In his arms
Held within his kiss
I went to him in the night
He came to me in the night
Two bodies as one
Beneath a full moon in Sagittarius
Locked
Inside the inside
Of your mouth

And it was in there
I knew that I would love you
Asleep in your arms
Bedspread, as a blanket of flowers
Wanting you to split me apart
Into a trillion fucking pieces
Each one
Longing always and only for you
Longing for the taste
Of the inside
Inside the inside
Of your mouth

Delicate touch
Other side brushes the soft side
Fingers moving
Across the curve of your spine
Tongue
Across the skin
Inside the inside
Of your mouth

Day after another
I woke up wanting to kiss you
Your skin on mine
Outside touches the inside
I wrote to you
Everyday
For one year
Unhinged by the memory
Inside the inside
Of your mouth

I swam the breadth of his river
With a full moon in Sagittarius
Above our heads
You kissed me
And again
I evaporated into you
And with his kiss
I became a braided river
Flowing forever
From inside the inside
Of his mouth

Wesley John Fourie

15 DECEMBER 2024 - 21 FEBRUARY 2025

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY |

Wesley John Fourie (b.1995 Amanzimtoti, South Africa) is a multi award winning emerging artist and curator based in Aotearoa New Zealand. Their work processes experiences of love, loss, and queer sexuality, often in relation to the natural environment. Wesley's multi-faceted art practice extends across textiles, sculpture, installation, drawing, poetry, painting, and video.

Wesley is interested in that which is poetic, confessional, and tactile - often working within these frameworks to create work that challenges notions of truth, desire, and sexuality.

Wesley holds a Bachelor of Visual Arts (with Merit) from Te Kura Matatini ki Otago the Dunedin School of Art, and is currently enrolled in Toi Maruata Certificate in Maori and

Indigenous Art through Te Wananga o Aotearoa (expected December 2024).

Wesley is a board member at RM Gallery and Project Space (Aotearoa's longest running artist-run initiative), and the founder, settlor, and director of New Lands Art Trust.

The artist would like to extend their gratitude to Ashburton District Council and Creative New Zealand for their integral financial support towards realising this exhibition. Wesley also gives thanks to Taarn Scott, James Hope, Peter Hope, and Sarah McGaughran, arohanui x

327 WEST STREET
ASHBURTON | 7700
AAGM@ADC.GOV.NZ
ASHBURTONARTGALLERY.ORG.NZ
T | 03 307 7890

Overleaf | Wesley John Fourie, *the first day of my life as a braided river* (detail), 2021-2024, mixed media. Image courtesy of the artist.



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EXHIBITION

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