

USF Contemporary Art Museum
NEWS RELEASE
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TE MOANA MERIDIAN:
HOW THE PRIME MERIDIAN SHAPES THE WORLD AND THE CASE FOR RELOCATING IT
August 25 – October 18, 2025
Harbor Hall Gallery, USF St. Petersburg

(ST. PETERSBURG, FL – AUGUST 13, 2025) **GENERATOR:**
USF Contemporary Art Museum presents *Te Moana Meridian*, an immersive installation by artist Sam Hamilton/Sam Tam Ham, on view at USF St. Petersburg's Harbor Hall Gallery beginning August 25.

Sam Hamilton/Sam Tam Ham (b. 1984, Auckland, New Zealand/Tāmaki Makaurau, Aotearoa) created *Te Moana Meridian* as a vessel for proposing a radical new United Nations General Assembly Draft Resolution to formally relocate the prime meridian from Greenwich, London, to Te Moana-nui-ā-Kiwa/the South Pacific Ocean.



Sam Hamilton, *Te Moana Meridian* at Oregon Contemporary for Converge 45, 2023. Credit: Mario Gallucci.

Since its inception at an 1884 conference in Washington D.C., the prime meridian has functioned to implicitly serve the colonial ambitions of a bygone empire. Today, rather than serving as a “beacon of humanity,” the prime meridian increasingly resembles an imperial relic. Just as all roads once led to Rome, all time and space coordinates still point to London as the “center of the world.”

***Te Moana Meridian* proposes to elect a new “center of the world” while acknowledging that doing so has the potential to reframe the dynamics of global power.** Where should this new center be located? *Te Moana Meridian* proposes the open waters of Te Moana-nui-ā-Kiwa/the South Pacific Ocean.

As Hamilton says: the prime meridian should be “anchored in the global commons.” Few domains materialize that like the ocean, which is connective, circulatory, omnipresent, and integral to all life. “To avoid drowning,” Hamilton says, “we must become the ocean.”

An immersive operatic work designed as a five-channel video installation, *Te Moana Meridian* features an international cast of performers, artists and practitioners, including: Mere Tokorahi Boynton (Te Aitanga-a-Māhaki, Ngāi Tūhoe), Holland Andrews (NYC, USA), Dr. Tru Paraha (Ngāti Hineāmaru, Ngāti Kahu o Torongare), Crystal Akins Meneses & The Lincoln City Children’s Choir (Oregon, US), Clara Chon (Aotearoa/NYC), Rhonda Tibble (Ngāti Porou, Te Whānau a Apanui, Ngati Kahungunu, Te Aitanga a Mahaki), British mother and daughter performance duo Deryl and Ruby Thatcher (UK), Alexa Stark (US) and others.

About Sam Hamilton/Sam Tam Ham

Sam Hamilton/Sam Tam Ham (B.1984, Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland, Aotearoa New Zealand) is a working class, interdisciplinary artist based in Portland, OR. They have presented their work at the Converge 45 Triennial (Portland, OR), Whitechapel Gallery (London), Portland Art Museum (OR), Issue Project Room (NYC), ARTSPACE Aotearoa (Aotearoa), Locust Projects (Miami), Transmediale (Berlin), Govett Brewster (Aotearoa), Plano B (Brazil) and more.

Te Moana Meridian is funded by the New Zealand Arts Council, Oregon Arts Commission, and The Ford Family Foundation, and supported by Activate Arts Now, Creative Capital, The N.M. Bodecker Foundation, The Speaker of the House of the New

Zealand Parliament, The Portland Art Museum, The Audio Foundation, and many of Sam Hamilton/Sam Tam Ham's incredible friends.

Te Moana Meridian at GENERATOR is curated by Christian Viveros-Fauné and organized by USF Contemporary Art Museum, Tampa. GENERATOR: USFCAM and its programs are generously supported by the USF College of Design, Art & Performance, USF St. Petersburg, the Lee and Victor Leavengood Endowment, and the Kathleen Binnicker Swann Endowment.



Sam Hamilton, *Te Moana Meridian* at Oregon Contemporary for Converve 45, 2023. Credit: Mario Gallucci.

RELATED EVENTS

Thursday, August 28

ART & ICE Week of Welcome

1–3pm, Harbor Hall (HBR) North Entrance - 1000 3rd St S, St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Students are invited to engage with the *Te Moana Meridian* immersive installation in the Harbor Hall Gallery and enjoy free icy treats.

Saturday, September 20

***Te Moana Meridian* Panel Discussion + Exhibition Reception**

5–9pm, Harbor Hall Auditorium (HBR 110) + Gallery (HBR 136) - 1000 3rd St S, St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Join us for a panel discussion featuring artist Sam Hamilton/Sam Tam, curator Christian Viveros-Fauné, and USF scholars, followed by an exhibition reception.

GENERATOR VISITOR INFO

Hours: Monday–Friday Noon–6pm; Saturday Noon–4pm. Closed Sundays + USF Holidays (September 1).

Admission: Exhibition and events are free and open to the public.

Address: Harbor Hall, USF St. Petersburg - [1000 3rd St S, St. Petersburg, FL 33701](#) (Gallery entrance on South end of building)

Parking: Visitor parking is available in lot 9 ([USFSP Parking Map](#)), south of Harbor Hall. Accessible parking is available in both lot 9 (south lot) and lot 10 (north lot). Wheelchair accessible entrance is on the north side. USF parking permits or payment by ParkMobile smartphone app are required. On street parking is also available on adjacent streets.

Contact: For questions call (813) 974-4133, email caminfo@usf.edu, or visit www.cam.usf.edu. For the latest information and links to our social media, visit <https://linktr.ee/irausf>.

ABOUT GENERATOR + USF CONTEMPORARY ART MUSEUM

An expansion of the University of South Florida Contemporary Art Museum, GENERATOR is an incubator of new ideas and a place for expanded artistic experimentation. Primarily focused on the moving image and time-based contemporary art, GENERATOR offers a new cultural dimension to St. Petersburg's prominence as an arts destination while offering free public access to an inclusive space for creative exploration, research, and dialogue.

USF Contemporary Art Museum (USFCAM) organizes and presents significant and investigative exhibitions of contemporary art from Florida, the United States and around the world. Serving as a teaching laboratory, USFCAM's curatorial initiatives and educational programs are designed to present the students, faculty, and community with current issues of contemporary art practice, and to explore the role of the arts in society. USFCAM publishes relevant catalogues, presents critically recognized traveling exhibitions and commissions new projects by national and international artists. USFCAM maintains the university's art collection, comprising more than 5000 contemporary art works. The Contemporary Art Museum is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums.

