

KINGS Artist Run acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we operate. We offer our respect to Elders both past and present and extend this offer to all First Nations people.

KINGS

Ayah Zakout
ANAU

SEPTEMBER
11.09.25–05.10.25

Artist Run

Established in 2003, KINGS Artist-Run provides a location for contemporary art practice, supporting distinctive experimental projects by artists at all stages of their careers.

Open 12-5pm, Thursday - Friday
1 - 5pm, Saturday -Sunday
69 Capel Street,
West Melbourne VIC 3003

GALLERY ONE

Ayah Zakout

Anau

Anau is a response to the immense weight that comes with carrying on tradition in the position of a compromised identity.

When your koro gets diagnosed with dementia and his Indigenous Kūki 'Airani Māori body becomes property of the New Zealand government. When money is the only thing that will grant him his autonomy and right to rest with family. When the country keeps taking charge of the bodies we birth.

Then you're twenty-something, in the land of your ancestors, your mother tells of her grievances and anger: the disputes going on between her siblings, the heritage home that is so corrupted it has to be torn limb from limb, the money spent on substances, the 20th century divorce, the feijoas that grow in the backyard, the pet pig she owned as a child, the route she took to school and the bull that chased her home one day.

I was born part of her flesh, I think she has always realised that. Anau.

Artwork details (left to right):

Anau, 2025, ink and inkjet photographs

Beaconsfield Station/Cinema Nova, 2025, oil stick and oil paint on canvas

Pōpongi Meitaki (you bank my hair), 2025, fabric, thread, cyanotype, yarn, stuffing

Good Heart (good mother), 2025, fabric, thread and cyanotype

Mubaarak, 2025, key caps and fabric

Rebirth, 2025, oil paint and fabric on canvas

Ayah Zakout is a Naarm-based visual artist of Palestinian and Polynesian descent (Kūki 'Airani Māori and Tahitian Mā'ohi), currently situated and practicing on Bunurong/Boonwurrung land.

As a multidisciplinary artist, Ayah ventures both traditional and digital mediums, occasionally combining her ways of working. With a keen focus on text and cross-translation, she pursues a range of subject matters; primarily that of cultural importance and sentiment, to linguistic questioning and reflection regarding their political identity.

Currently prioritising confessional writing, textile work and archive, Ayah desires to depict what entire self-expression truly entails.