

Title: *Ōtara at Night*

Date: 2011

Format: 02:00 HD Digital Loop

Occupying the Fair Mall stage, in Ōtara, late at night. *Ōtara at Night* is part of a series of video works shot in South Auckland spaces, influenced by dance. Dancehall refers to a genre of music that originates from Jamaica, but it is also a term that indicates an entire culture in which music, dance, fashion and community collide. For example the more flamboyant and dexterous a dancehall queen's performance the more she is able to represent her hood at a "Sound Clash"¹ event. Social and political change is the platform from which dancehall culture evolved; a change in politics from Manley's PNP to Seaga's JLP created shifts in the local economic structure of Jamaica. This movement allowed people to start advancing out of the confines of their previously prescribed socioeconomic status. Again the aforementioned dancehall queen can maintain her own beauty business during the week and perform at the Sound Clash on the weekend, dressed in the full dancehall regalia that her small business finances. In this moving image work we watch a South Auckland queen take Ōtara as her stage to perform her nocturnal dance. This video work is intended as a celebration of dancehall, Ōtara and female power.

Video directed by Rebecca Ann Hobbs in collaboration with the dancer Amelia Lynch.

With help and guidance from Tanu Gago, Leilani Kake, Graeme Marshall and Ema Tavola.

Track: Limb By Limb

Artist: Cutty Ranks

Album: Reggae Anthology

Label: VP Records

¹ Sound clash - a musical competition where crew-members from opposing dancehall sound systems pit their skills against each other.