

Title: *Māngere Bridge; 246 Meters*

Date: 2010

Format: 03:00 HD Digital Loop

Measuring a 246-meter bridge with whines, pops and rolls. *Māngere Bridge; 246 Meters* 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 [neighbour]hood at a Sound Clash¹ 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 track a dancer as she progresses the length of the Old Māngere Bridge, a structure that joins the North (Onehunga) with the South (Māngere Bridge). The bridge no longer functions as a thoroughfare, instead different communities come together to fish, play and hang. This video work is intended as a celebration of dancehall, Māngere and female power.

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

With help and guidance from Fiona Amundson, Penitua Finau, Graeme Marshall and Julie Tapper.

Sound Track by: Pieter Keyesz

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