

Artist Bio

Mark Alister Raymer

I was born in Aotearoa but raised in the USA, earning a BFA at the University of North Texas and an MFA from the University of Kansas. Throughout my life in the States, my family maintained strong ties with New Zealand, shaping my identity and becoming an integral part of who I am. My wife and I moved to NZ at the end of 2020 to raise our family, and upon arriving I realized how little I know about my own country.

When growing up in America I felt distinctly kiwi, but now coming home and living here I feel distinctly American, which began to influence my studio practice. I grappled with the idea of home in both the literal and metaphorical sense, which worked its way into my imagery. A house can represent stability or instability, something attainable or something out of reach.

In my work, the home floats revealing empty rooms within. It is without a foundation and is often accompanied by constellations that are not based in reality and cannot be used for navigation. Understanding oneself in the absence or disconnect from nationality, home and history can be disorientating. Through this work I am attempting to bridge that disconnect.

Mark Alister Raymer, 2024