

K Air: Arrivals and Departures, 2019 by Ursula Christel & Sue Hill

Installation:

Cardboard packaging, packaging tape, airmail stamps, 2 recycling bins, digital prints, monoprints, LED lights, tube lights

“Changing our consumerist habits and actively preserving the stop-over habitats for migratory birds, is the least we can do for them!”

Auckland Airport:

More than 420 flights land and take off every day, and the demand is rising. Visitor numbers are expected to double to more than 40 million by 2044. A suite of transport and roading projects are underway to allow the growth of the airport, which includes a second runway. On a flight between Sydney and Beijing, a jumbo jet burns over 100,000 litres of fuel. The skies are dense with flight paths of aircraft carrying passengers and products, and the roads are crammed with traffic - all market driven by a demanding consumerist culture – Buy, Buy, Buy!!! Population growth, development, excessive consumerism and the pollution that comes with it, are the major causes of diminishing natural habitats for migratory birds."

Meanwhile, at ‘K Air’:

The numbers are dropping drastically at **‘K Air’s Arrivals and Departures’**. The **Kuaka/bar-tailed Godwit**, flies non-stop from Alaska to New Zealand - then back again, via China/Korea. To fuel their journey, these instinctive aviators need to have almost doubled their body weight with vital reserves of fat and muscle at departure time in NZ. They fly **11,000-kilometre** for **nine straight days**, remaining airborne **day and night**. Their magnetic sense detects variations in the earth’s magnetic field for accurate navigation. Without their strategic landing sites for essential rest and food supplies, this crew will not survive their marathon aviation trips.