

Toi Tū Toi Ora: Contemporary Māori Art set to wow audiences this Summer



Lisa Reihana *Ihi* (still) 2020,
Commissioned by
Regional Facilities Auckland.

Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki presents landmark exhibition of contemporary Māori art in major showcase opening Saturday 5 December.

In the largest exhibition ever presented by Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki, *Toi Tū Toi Ora: Contemporary Māori Art* offers insights into the development of Māori art from the 1950s to the present day. The first major exhibition of its kind in nearly 20 years, *Toi Tū Toi Ora* is informed by a Māori worldview, and will include more than 300 artworks, exploring cultural histories, Māori knowledge, identity and place.

Hoa matua | Major partners





Fiona Pardington *Davis Kea Wings* (above), 2015. Courtesy of the Artist and Starkwhite, Auckland.

Spanning 70 years with work by 111 artists, *Toi Tū Toi Ora* presents both an aspiration and a challenge to realise a future in which contemporary Māori art continues to stand tall – *toi tū* – and healthy – *toi ora* – while reinforcing the wisdom and ideas that empower Māori and Indigenous ways of knowing.

Showcasing iconic artworks by some of Aotearoa New Zealand’s most significant artists – Ralph Hotere, Lonnie Hutchinson, Robyn Kahukiwa, Mere Harrison Lodge, Merata Mita, Buck Nin, Fiona Pardington, Michael Parekowhai, James Ormsby, Lisa Reihana, Rachael Rakena, Peter Robinson, Wi Taepa, Cliff Whiting, Arnold Manaaki Wilson, Pauline Yearbury, and more – *Toi Tū Toi Ora* will include painting, sculpture, printmaking, clay-making, jewellery and body adornment, photography, digital media, film and installation art.

Nigel Borell (Pirirākau, Ngāi Te Rangi, Ngāti Ranginui, Te Whakatōhea), Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki Curator, Māori Art, says: ‘*Toi Tū Toi Ora* is organised around the Māori creation narrative as a way to enter into a conversation about the importance of Māori art and artists, and to explore what unites these artists across space and time.’

‘As visitors explore the exhibition, they will literally step into the creation story, beginning with Te Kore (the great nothingness) before traveling through to Te Po (the darkness), then the separation of Ranginui and Papatūānuku before entering Te Ao Mārama (the world of light and life).’

Kirsten Lacy, Director, Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki, says: ‘This is a spirited and celebratory exhibition that sees the Gallery dedicated to showcasing a distinct and important art movement, both within Aotearoa New Zealand and a global context. Contemporary Māori art, like Māori culture, is nuanced, vibrant and diverse. *Toi Tū Toi Ora* is a crucial update to the story of the art of our country. We warmly invite all New Zealanders to take pride in Māori creativity and to explore the Māori creation narrative in a new way. This is a free exhibition for everyone to enjoy and we hope visitors will leave full of heart.’

To be unveiled over the duration of the exhibition, *Toi Tū Toi Ora* will include major new artworks that have been commissioned by artists from around Aotearoa New Zealand.

The commissions include an interactive exhibition in the Gallery’s family-friendly Creative Learning Centre by Charlotte Graham; a new installation by Ana Iti on the Gallery’s exterior sculpture terrace, connecting the Gallery with nearby Albert Park; and a major new work by Reuben Paterson to be installed in the Gallery’s forecourt pool next year.

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In the Gallery's prominent North Atrium, an installation by Emily Karaka will be the largest artist commission of her career. The windows of the Gallery's South Atrium, meanwhile, are the location for a colourful, two-storey-high installation by Sandy Adsett who explores kōwhaiwhai in his work *Puhoro, 2020*.

A new, two-storey-high installation work based on the female deity Hine-nui-te-po has been produced by Mata Aho Collective in collaboration with artist Maureen Lander; and in the Gallery's historic Mackelvie Gallery, Shane Cotton has co-curated an exhibition room that will place work by contemporary Māori artists alongside the Gallery's historical art collection and an exciting new commission work from the artist himself.

Other major new works to be shown for the first time have been produced by Reweti Arapere; Shona Rapira-Davies; Matekino Lawless and Christina Hurihia Wirihana; Te Rongo Kirkwood; Ngataiharuru Taepa; Areta Wilkinson and more.

The exhibition will also be accompanied by a *Toi Tū Toi Ora* satellite site in the Britomart precinct, developed in partnership with the Britomart Group, which will include four new public artworks by Shane Cotton, Lonnie Hutchinson, Charlotte Graham and Lyonel Grant.

The exhibition's development has been supported by Haerewa, the Māori advisory group to Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki. Chair of Haerewa, Elizabeth Ellis (Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Porou), says: 'An exhibition survey of this scale has been a long time coming in Aotearoa New Zealand and it fulfils our aspirations for the Gallery. *Toi Tū Toi Ora: Contemporary Māori Art* brings visibility to contemporary Māori art for Māori communities and all to celebrate and embrace.'

For images and interviews

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Exhibition details

Toi Tū Toi Ora: Contemporary Māori Art

When:
 Saturday 5 December 2020– 9 May 2021

10am–5pm daily except Christmas Day

Where:
 Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki
 Cnr Kitchener and Wellesley Streets
 Auckland, New Zealand

Admission:
 FREE

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Toi Tū Toi Ora: Contemporary Māori Art
List of Artists

Sandy Adsett	Ngaahina Hohaia	Kāterina Mataira	Peter Robinson
Hiria Anderson	Rangituhia Hollis	Gina Matchitt	Emily Schuster
Reweti Arapere	Ralph Hotere	Para Matchitt	Maree Sheehan
Margaret Aull	John Hovell	Matthew McIntyre- Wilson	Huhana Smith
Erena Baker	Lonnie Hutchinson	John Miller	Kereama Taepa
Gabrielle Belz	Ana Iti	Heperi Mita	Ngataiharuru Taepa
Israel Tangaroa Birch	Robert Jahnke	Merata Mita	Wi Taepa
Buster Black	Robyn Kahukiwa	Neke Moa	Tawera Tahuri
Chris Bryant-Toi	Leilani Kake	Linda Munn	Kelcy Taratoa
Tangimoe Clay	Eugene Kara	Claudine Muru	Shannon Te Ao
Paerau Corneal	Emily Karaka	Selwyn Muru	Jasmine Te Hira
Shane Cotton	Natasha Keating	Manos Nathan	Te Maari
Natalie Couch	Rangi Kipa	Buck Nin	Saffron Te Ratana
Davina Duke	Te Rongo Kirkwood	James Ormsby	Donna Tupaea- Petero
Bethany Edmunds	Jimmy James	Rona Ngahua Osborne	Colleen Waata Ulrich
Vanessa Wairata Edwards	Kouratoras	Fiona Pardington	Dorothy Waetford
Zena Elliott	Lily Laita	Michael Parekowhai	Taika Waititi
Elizabeth Ellis	Maureen Lander	Reuben Paterson	John Walsh
John Bevan Ford	Matekino Lawless	Nova Paul	Marilynn Webb
Jacqueline Fraser	Randal Leach	Matt Pine	Cliff Whiting
Darryn George	Jeremy Leatinu'u	Nathan Pohio	Gary Whiting
Steve Gibbs	Janet Lilo	Rachael Rakena	Areta Wilkinson
Star Gossage	Mere Harrison	Shona Rapira- Davies	Arnold Manaaki Wilson
Brett Graham	Lodge	Aimee Ratana	Selwyn Wilson
Charlotte Graham	Dan Mace	Lisa Reihana	Christina Hurihia
Fred Graham	Hemi Macgregor	Bridget Reweti	Wirihihana
Lyonel Grant	Toi Te Rito Maihi	Kura Te Waru Rewiri	Pauline Yearbury
Ayesha Green	Mata Aho Collective	Baye Riddell	
Ngahua Harrison	Erena Baker	Natalie Robertson	
Chris Heaphy	Sarah Hudson		
	Bridget Reweti		
	Terri Te Tau		

Toi Tū Toi Ora Opening Day Celebration

Saturday 5 December – 11am until late

Gather your friends and whānau and celebrate the public opening day for *Toi Tū Toi Ora: Contemporary Māori Art*. As well as exploring the Gallery-wide exhibition itself, enjoy contemporary dance by Atamira Dance Company, kapa haka, taonga pūoro, hāngi food, family art making activities, spoken word poetry and live music.

See aucklandartgallery.com for details.

Auckland Art Gallery Shop

shop.aucklandartgallery.com

Auckland Art Gallery's shop offers a wide selection of gifts and products inspired by design trends, current exhibitions and the Gallery's collection. All purchase proceeds support Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki.

To celebrate *Toi Tū Toi Ora: Contemporary Māori Art*, the Gallery shop will be offering a dedicated collection of exclusive products, including original pieces from artists Kereama Taepa, Tangimoe Clay, Te Rongo Kirkwood and Davina Duke. There will also be raranga, pounamu, uku and handmade toys by contemporary Māori makers, and an exclusive range of Gallery merchandise featuring artworks in the exhibition.

The Gallery shop has also produced a limited-edition lithograph print with Zena Elliott.