

**New family-friendly, interactive exhibition, *Te Hā o Te Wao Nui a Tāne (The Breath of Tāne)*, opens at Auckland Art Gallery this summer**



This summer, Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki invites you to enter the ngahere (forest, ecosystem) – and the realm of Tāne Mahuta – in a new family-friendly exhibition by artist Charlotte Graham (Ngāti Mahuta, Ngāti Tamaoho, Te Ākitai Waiohua, Ngāti Whanaunga, Ngāti Pāoa, Ngāti Kotimana).

*Te Hā o Te Wao Nui a Tāne (The Breath of Tāne)* presents an immersive forest as seen through Charlotte Graham’s eyes: an unfolding space of calming, uplifting pastel colours, rich textures, rippling light and playful creatures. Find ruru (owls) and tīrairaka (fantails) perching in rākau (trees), feel ferns unfurling and growing, and discover insects crawling across logs and pekapeka (bats) flying out of nooks.

Visitors of all ages can make their own rub drawings of taonga (treasures) and textures found in the ngahere, which will then be pasted together to help make the korowai (cloak) of Tāne. Over the coming months, the colours of the forest will change to create a vibrant, collaborative korowai.

*Te Hā o Te Wao Nui a Tāne* is co-curated by Auckland Art Gallery Assistant Curators Emma Jameson and Taarati Taiaroa. The exhibition is part of the Gallery’s major new exhibition, *Toi Tū Toi Ora: Contemporary Māori Art*.

Emma Jameson says, ‘Charlotte Graham has created an immersive and multi-sensory experience of being under the forest canopy. Opening at the end of a year that has been fraught with anxiety and disconnection, *Te Hā o Te Wao Nui a Tāne* is a pertinent and beautiful reminder of the importance of outdoor space and the natural environment to our health and wellbeing. It provides a way for us to reconnect and recalibrate our relationships – with each other, with the ngahere (forest, ecosystem) and te taiao (the natural world) – in a way that triggers creativity and the imagination.’

Taarati Taiaroa adds, ‘*Te Hā o Te Wao Nui a Tāne* is an uplifting and generous artwork that offers curiosity, delight and wonder for children and adults alike. It expands upon the pūrākau (narratives) of Tāne found in *Toi Tū Toi Ora: Contemporary Māori Art*. In so doing, it provides a means to see, touch and reflect upon our place and responsibilities within Te Ao Mārama, the world of light and life that we live in today.’

*Te Hā o Te Wao Nui a Tāne* is presented in Auckland Art Gallery’s Todd Foundation Creative Learning Centre and made possible with the support of the Joyce Fisher Charitable Trust, Resene and Honeysticks.

Kirsten Lacy, Director of Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki says, ‘*Te Hā o Te Wao Nui a Tāne* marks not just the opening weeks of *Toi Tū Toi Ora*, but also the start of a holiday programme rich with art-making experiences for all the family. From free, daily drop-in activities for the whole whānau to jam-packed, art-inspired, child-care holiday programmes for kids, there is lot to entertain and educate at the Gallery this summer.’

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**Exhibition details**

Charlotte Graham *Te Hā o Te Wao Nui a Tāne (The Breath of Tāne)*

**When:**

Saturday 19 December 2020–  
Sunday 21 June 2021

10am–5pm daily, except Christmas Day

**Where:**

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

**Admission:**

FREE

**Summer holidays at Auckland Art Gallery**

Explore a world of art and ideas at Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki these school holidays.

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**Whānau drop-in art activities**

Daily, 19 December 2020–31 January 2021  
FREE

Enjoy free, daily, drop-in art-making workshops in our spacious North Atirum. Make a piece of art you can take home, and explore ideas and themes related to our current exhibitions. Families can also explore the Gallery with self-guided worksheets that include a Gallery-wide scavenger hunt and architecture bingo.

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**School holiday programme**

9am–3pm, Monday–Friday, 18 January–29 January 2021  
\$80 per day/\$350 for 5 days

In January, the Gallery presents a jam-packed, art-inspired, child-care holiday programme for kids aged 7–12 that will offer day-long sessions Monday to Friday. The programme will explore the current major exhibition *Toi Tū Toi Ora: Contemporary Māori Art* through creative art-making activities that teach kids to look at art in new ways. Each day of the programme focuses on a different theme, including whakairo (carving), sculpture, whakapaipai (woven wearable art) and photograms.

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**Learn about the Māori creation narrative in Toi Tū Toi Ora: Contemporary Māori Art**

10am—5pm, until 9 June 2021 (except Christmas Day)  
FRE

See the Māori creation narrative unfold through contemporary art in Auckland Art Gallery's major new exhibition Toi Tū Toi Ora: Contemporary Māori Art. Begin in Te Kore (the great nothingness) before traveling through to Te Pō (the darkness), then to the separation of Ranginui and Papatūāknuku before entering Te Ao Mārama (the world of light and life). See carvings, paintings, photography, adornment, film, installation art and more in the largest exhibition ever presented by Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki.

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**For images and interviews**

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