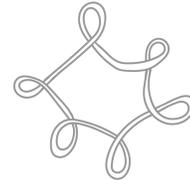


# Mana Whenua

12 February 2022 – April 2022

Wormhole Gallery and Studio, Edgecumbe

Curated by Sarah Hudson (Ngāti Awa, Ngāti Pūkeko, Ngāi Tūhoe)



Mana Whenua is an exhibition of original earth pigment paintings by 11 Māori artists. The paintings were created for a book of the same name by Sarah Hudson, published in 2020. Mana Whenua grew out of questions being asked by Whakatāne-based research collective Kauae Raro, a group dedicated to researching and sharing Māori earth pigment mātauranga.

In 1866, 181,000ha of land was stolen by the government from Ngāti Awa, Whakatōhea and Ngāi Tūhoe. All of the earth pigments gifted during this project were hand-gathered on this whenua. I acknowledge te Tiriti and that as the Waitangi Tribunal states, “the rangatira who signed the Tiriti o Waitangi in February 1840 did not cede sovereignty to the British Crown.” Sarah Hudson

Artist names and extracts from Mana Whenua are listed below. Works are arranged on the wall in the same order, except for Bronte Perry’s work, which is arranged on the low table.

## Ayesha Green (Ngāi Tahu, Ngāti Kahungunu)

The place we come from has the power to describe us... Our kōkōwai - it is of us, it is us. Its mana is inherent in its materiality – its ecology tied directly to us. I’ve learnt to understand its whakapapa as inherent to my own, to think of it as an extension of my own body - kōkōwai is reciprocal.

## Sarah Hikuroa (Ngāpuhi, Waikato, Ngāti Maniapoto)

The act of using pigments from our Whenua connects me to our Tupuna and can be a form of rongoā. The pigments carry the mauri of that rohe. *Tukua mai he kapunga oneone ki ahau hei tangi māku - Send me a handful of soil so that I may weep over it*

## Nikau Hindin (Ngāi Tūpoto, Te Rarawa, Ngāpuhi)

What I enjoyed most about this project was the smells of earth + gum. I see [kōkōwai] as the veins of Papatūānuku or her menstrual soils from which Tāne created Hine-ahu-one. Kōkōwai has the effect of elevation. Sacred in itself it can be a tohu for tapu also.

## Ana Iti (Te Rarawa)

I find spending time w/ whenua challenging. It ended up all through my studio and no amount of mopping seemed to return it to its previous state. Conceptually it continues to lead me to question my relationship to place & belonging, an ongoing conversation.

**Kahu Kutia (Ngāi Tūhoe)**

I WILL LIVE AND DIE A THOUSAND TIMES AND STILL BE OF THIS  
LAND  
OR/ MATEMATEĀONE

**Sian Montgomery-Neutze (Muaūpoko, Ngāi Tara)**

I treat working with kōkōwai very much the same way I treat working with the body (when doing tā moko) for me, any time I work with a natural material, it's a collaboration. Within moko, the body provides the design, and I find it's similar with kōkōwai.

**Bronte Perry (Ngāpuhi)**

*He hokinga mate, he hokinga kāinga, he hokinga oneone – A return of suffering, a return to home, a return to the soil – Hone Heke*

The three muka cords, dyed in the whenua gifted to me, represent the three generations of separation but also the pito that ties us to the whenua – to the whare of Ngāpuhi through which many threads guide us back.

**Nathan Pōhio (Waitaha, Kātī Māmoē, Ngāi Tahu)**

... For now, I like the flat mat of the whenua, it's great.

**Bridget Reweti (Ngāi Te Rangi, Ngāti Ranginui)**

Learning to use earth pigments in hand-colouring photographs has me focusing on the close at hand, the quality of light, depth, and some Māori magic!

**Raukura Turei (Ngāitai ki Tāmaki, Ngā Rauru Kitahi)**

Working with pigments such as the aumoana kere from Hauraki connects me to my tīpuna. The repetitive mark makings bring stillness and quiet like the time before sunrise when everything is at peace. The repetitive taki of a karakia at dawn to awaken Hine-Awatea & Hine-Ruhi.

**Cora-Allan Wickliffe (Ngāpuhi, Tainui/Alofi, Liku)**

When I am able to use materials from the whenua I feel at peace. I feel happy and my brain thinks of ways to stay connected, and how can I add to my tool box. I learn for others, I learn to share. I love this journey of looking, being, and contributing. This has meant so much to my spirit and whanau.

Thank you for visiting!

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