



Robin Kahukiwa, Mana Māori Motukake, 2021 (Image courtesy the artist)

## Resource Card *Matarau*

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Te Tihaka o te Mātauranga

## Resource Card

# Matarau

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### About the Exhibition

The word *Matarau* refers to an early multi-pronged spear used in fishing and eeling by Māori. To use matarau successfully any hunter or way finder must understand the shifting conditions around them to fulfil their purpose.

*Matarau* brings together the work of contemporary Māori artists—Robin Kahukiwa, Emily Karaka, Hemi Macgregor, James Tapsell-Kururangi, Ming Ranganui, and Kei te pai Press. It is guest curated by Shannon Te Ao. For these artists, their lived experience and art works are strongly connected. Whakapapa, the environment, politics, and love weave in and out of the artist's daily experience and the art you see.

### Selected Artists

Robin Kahukiwa (Ngāti Porou, Te Aitanga-a-Hauiti, Ngāti Kōnohi, Te Whānau-a-Ruataupare). Kahukiwa's painting centralises urban and domestic Māori experiences, and she is also known for her illustrations of Māori legends. Kahukiwa has created three paintings of Wahine Toa featured amongst symbols and traditional motifs.

Emily Karaka (Waikato, Ngāpuhi, Ngāi Tai Ki Tāmaki, Te Kawerau ā Maki, Ngā Tamaoho, Te Ākitai, Waiohua, Te Ahi Waru, Ngāti Mahuta, Ngāti Tahinga, Ngāti Hine). Karaka's paintings are expressionistic, bold in colour and energetic. Her work explores current affairs, politics, and histories. [emilykaraka.com](http://emilykaraka.com)

Hemi Macgregor (Ngāti Rakaipaaka, Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāti Tūhoe) Macgregor works in a variety of mediums, including sculpture, painting, installation, and video. His works in *Matarau* use geometric shapes and symbolism to explore Māori philosophical concepts of te taiao.

James Tapsell-Kururangi (Te Arawa, Ngāti Whakauae, Ngāti Pīkiao, Ngāti Mākinu, Tainui, Ngāti Raukawa, Ngāti Porou, Te Whānau-a-Rākairoa) makes films, that often incorporate waiata. This work is based around Moutohorā Island and explores personal histories and whakapapa related to this site.

Ming Ranganui (Ta Ati Haunui-a-Pāpārangi) makes mixed media sculpture that includes found objects, smocked fabric and stickers. For this exhibition, Ming presents a ready-made, altered Daihatsu as a vehicle to comment on identity and social issues.

[minginui.com/ming](http://minginui.com/ming)

### Pre-Visit Activities

**Listen to and discuss** myths and legends that relate to the natural world. Look up 'activism' and 'political action' in the art of Aotearoa. Discuss cultural identity and forms of expression through art and music. How might these link to your everyday life and current events happening around you?

### Post-Visit Activities

**Reflect** on your visit. What did you see and do at the Gallery? Which artworks did you find interesting? Why? What were the artists saying in their work?

**Investigate** other works by an artist you enjoyed seeing represented at the Gallery. What are the similarities and differences between their different pieces of work? Has their work changed over time? Why might that be?

**Make a** painting and include text. Have a look at the use of words in Emily Karaka's painting as an example, research the content. Link your work to current events locally, nationally, or what is happening around you. Experiment with taping off areas or patterns on a canvas. [jacksonsart.com/blog/2019/03/27/creating-hard-edges-in-acrylic-painting/](http://jacksonsart.com/blog/2019/03/27/creating-hard-edges-in-acrylic-painting/)

**Collaborate** with your class to produce a large painting. Be inspired by Hemi Macgregor's way of looking at repetition and symbols.

**Research** work by other contemporary or past NZ artists whose work intersects with ideas in this program. Look up *Five Maori Painters* from Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki. Explore the artists in this exhibition. Which artists from *Matarau* were featured in this exhibition? [aucklandartgallery.com/page/five-maori-painters-at-auckland-art-gallery](http://aucklandartgallery.com/page/five-maori-painters-at-auckland-art-gallery)

### Kupu Māori

Atua – gods and spirits

Whakapapa – ancestry

Kaupapa – topic, plan, purpose, matter for discussion

Waiata – song

Taiao – nature

### Vocabulary –

Abstract – Art that does not show reality, but instead uses lines, shapes and colours to show its effect.

Expressionism – refers to art where the image has been changed to express and Idea or feeling

Activist – someone who is political and stands behind their beliefs

Motif- image or design, especially a repeating one forming a pattern

Triptych – An artwork divided into three sections