

Tikanga:

To follow tikanga is to follow processes that are right (tika) and based on rites.

Artist's note on symbolism

Huia feather: In Māori society, feathers, including those of the huia, were considered taonga (treasures) and held a sacred status. Feathers were often used in traditional adornments, garments, and ceremonial objects.

Kawakawa leaf: Rongoā Māori draws upon the ancestral knowledge and understanding of natural resources, as well as spiritual practices and rituals.

Woven star: This refers to the traditional Māori understanding of the universe, creation, and the interconnectedness of all things. It encompasses a complex system of beliefs, stories, and spiritual concepts that provide a framework for understanding the origins of the world and the place of humans within it.

Hei Tiki: The hei tiki is a symbol of mana, authority, fertility, ancestral connection, spiritual guardianship and identity.

Kumara flower: Kumara is one of the most significant and widely cultivated crops in Māori culture. This motif illustrates the significance of tiaki taiao (caring for the land) and its pivotal role in everyday life.

Shell: The ocean played a pivotal role in the ancestral migration of the Māori to Aotearoa. Tikanga are observed when interacting with the ocean to show respect and maintain balance.

Mere: The mere reflects the rich warrior traditions of the Māori people. These weapons were crafted with skill and served both practical and symbolic purposes in warfare, hunting, and ceremonial contexts.

Children (between legs): Whakapapa and whānau is a fundamental building block of Māori society, and it extends beyond biological or legal relationships to encompass a broader sense.

Artist bio: Chloë Reweti

Chloë Reweti is of Ngāti Ranginui, Ngāi Te Rangi, Ngāti Porou, Ngāti Tukorehe and Irish (Moate) descent. She works as an independent designer, and was previously an art director and senior designer at Wētā Workshop.

Chloë has a special interest in culturally responsive design and designing for the wider arts sector.

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