



Friends Art Awards 2024

The awards have been awarded and the exhibition is now open!

The Friends of Pātaka Art Awards gets bigger and better every time – this year a record 94 works, 34 from first-timers. This year's exhibition features a wide range of media from artists living, working and/or studying in the Porirua area – amateur and professional, old hands and new, many having their work shown in an art gallery for the first time.

The winners were announced on 25 July at the opening, which celebrated the artists and their whanau and friends, the sponsors and judges. It is the support and expertise of Pātaka staff that makes the Awards opening and well-curated exhibition possible.



COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND JUDGES CELEBRATING AT THE OPENING

Friends also value the long-term support and commitment of our prize sponsors, who foster the arts in Porirua through supporting our awards: every awards, a new cohort of first-timers is inspired to enter and help grow our artist community. Thank

you to the Smith Family; Tommy's Real Estate Mana; Leina Isno; and The Learning Connexion.

All works are for sale, another way of supporting and encouraging more of the artists in the show.

2024 Art Awards winners



Emma Hercus (*above right, with judge Ioana Gordon-Smith*) won the Open Award, for her work 'Listening to the sea.' The prize includes the use of the facilities at Pātaka as the Artist in Residence for a month.

Other winners were: Fran Zukowski who won the Highly Commended Award with 'Green Haze'; Rhona Orr, who won the First-Time Entry Award for 'Leafiness in Papakōwhai 3'; and Bert van Dijk (also a first-time entrant) who won the Creativity and Promise Scholarship of a six-month Level 4 Certificate at The Learning Connexion for 'Pivotal Moment'.

What impressed the judges?

The insightful comments of judges Ioana Gordon-Smith (Chief Judge and Lead Curator at Pātaka) and Georgie Keyse (Judge and Curator of the exhibition), are worth sharing.

They were “both wildly impressed with the artworks. We found ourselves gravitating towards works that show a really distinctive artistic point of view, the magical moment when good technique and knowledge of a medium meets an original and unique approach or perspective.”

Emma Hercus’s work really stood out: “This painting found its subject matter in the familiar terrain of nature, but with a playful twist. Recognisable elements have been flattened and elongated, distorted, layered and substituted to render the familiar strange and new again.

“The approach is one that is incredibly appropriate for the artist’s call to turn our attention to nature, to listen to the sea, and to recognise that our surroundings can inspire not just observation, but creativity, curiosity and imagination too.



“The work of Fran Zukowski (*above right, with sponsor Euon Murrell*) stands out for its technical skill, using shades of green to create layers of recognisable landscape and a figure. The painting slowly reveals new details with each viewing, showing how much can be expressed through just one colour.



“The artwork of Rhona Orr (*above right, with judge Georgie Keyse*) stood out for its approach to materials and media. We were drawn to its bold composition and its clever take on materials, featuring natural materials that were woven together and then photographed as a found object. We were struck by the uniqueness of this artwork.”



Jonathan and Alice Milne (*above in front of 'Pivotal Moment'*) were struck by the potential shown in Bert van Dijk’s painting ‘Pivotal Moment’ and decided The Learning Connexion scholarship would really stimulate him to extend and develop creativity in his work.

We have since chatted with each winner to find out more about them and their art practice. In the [Art Awards 2024 pages](#) on our website, you will find a profile of each in their own words, as well as a Gallery of photos from the Opening night.

Viewers’ Choice Award

The final prize, the Viewers’ Choice Award of \$500, sponsored by Friends of Pātaka, will be awarded at the end of the exhibition, on 15 September. Voting forms are in the gallery so come and have a look, choose your favourite and vote for the Viewers’ Choice Award.

[More about the awards and the 2024 winners](#)

WINTER MUSIC SERIES



SUNSET SPECIAL FROM PORIRUA COLLEGE

The Winter Music Series this year was again a great success. Ngā mihi nui to all the performers and audiences and for Pātaka’s support. Our usual varied programme included classical, folk and choral performances: The Zephyr Flute Quartet, Even the Lost, and Wellington Male Voice Choir.

We reserve the final concert for showcasing musicians from local colleges – this year the Sunset Special band from Porirua College – we enjoy offering a performing experience with a supportive audience that always includes whānau.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARK TANTRUM



Anton Forde – ‘Papare Eighty.one’

Curator talk by Ioana Gordon-Smith, with morning tea.

Date: Monday 2 September, 10.45am.

Hapori Room, Pātaka.

Join us for morning tea and another wonderful opportunity to hear Ioana share insights into this very affecting installation of 81 carved, wooden pou which appear as sentinels in the gallery. Being in the gallery in their presence is an unexpected emotional experience. Why is that? Pātaka describes this work [here](#).

Pātaka staff have kindly offered to organise and host this event.



Katha – Stories of the Girit Women of Fiji, by Seema Singh.

History Series lunchtime talk.

Friday 11 October, 12 noon-1pm.

Hapori Room, Pātaka

A powerful exhibition of Seema's paintings is in Bottle Creek Gallery 20 September – 3 October. It is a tribute to the lives of Indian women who were brought to Fiji from 1879 to 1916 to work on the cotton, sugar cane and other plantations under British rule. This system of labour was called the indenture system where people were contracted to work for five years and then pay their passageway

back home to India. The agreements binding people to labour for a set amount of time were known as Girit. More than 60,000 Indians were brought to Fiji to work in atrocious, inhumane conditions.

Seema Singh will talk about this period of colonisation and the impacts on the Girit women and their descendants, a lot of whom also live in Aotearoa New Zealand. She will describe how art and artifacts are used in the exhibition to tell stories and connect young people to the journey of their ancestors.

Porirua Arts Trail

Porirua Arts Trail registrations close 31 August

Friends are delighted to promote the Porirua Arts Trail's next step. Organisation has been progressing, with registrations open during August for artists to register their participation.

For more see: poriruaartstrail.org.nz

facebook.com/poriruaartstrail or

Instagram: @poriruaartstrail

Weaves of the World: Celebrating NZ's rich multicultural ethnic diversity through textiles.

2-13 October, timed to coincide with WOW

NZ Academy of Fine Arts, 1 Queen's Wharf, Wellington. Entry by koha.

For handweavers and lovers of global traditional and antique textiles and costume, this is a show not to be missed, displaying the richness of the various multicultural communities that have made Aotearoa, New Zealand, their home. Organisers, textile experts and collectors Shani Pillai and Joji Jacob, have delivered many talks on the history and revitalisation of handcrafted textiles, especially those from India. See: atitravel.nz/wow

RECENT PUBLICATION

Kirsty Baker: *Sight Lines: Women and Art in Aotearoa*, Auckland University Press, 2024.



Sight Lines tells the story of art made by women in Aotearoa through 35 extraordinary women artists – from ancient whatu kākahu to contemporary installation art, Frances Hodgkins to Merata Mita, Fiona Clark to Mataaho Collective.

Dr Kirsty Baker, art historian, curator and writer, is

a curator at City Gallery Wellington Te Whare Toi. With essays by Chloe Cull, Ngarino Ellis, Rangimarie Sophie Jolley, Lana Lopesi, Hanahiva Rose, Huhana Smith and Megan Tamati-Quennell alongside the author, *Sight Lines* is a bold new account of art-making in Aotearoa. Pātaka's Lead Curator, Ioana Gordon-Smith, has contributed an essay about artist Janet Lilo.

Reserve it from Porirua or Wellington Libraries.

PĀTAKA'S EXHIBITIONS

Main Galleries Winter Season

22 June – 13 October 2024

A reminder to come and see the three current shows: Red Wave Blue Wave; Anton Forde's 'Papare Eighty.One'; and 'The Ultimate Project', photographs, masks, masi, and body adornment, by the artist collective Na Tolu.

See [Pātaka's website](#) for more details.

TOI GALLERY EXHIBITIONS

Birgit Moffatt 'Reimagining Geometry'

Local artist Birgit's show is currently in Toi Gallery until 22 September. She constructs cylindrical, hand-cut and dried harakeke leaves strung into geometric and architectural forms.



Sanap Wantaim: Stand Together'

Exhibitions can have a strong emotional impact. This show of photographs by Paul Wolfram (Associate Professor in Film at Te Herenga Waka), and bilum (traditional string bags), woven by an underground network of human rights defenders, raised awareness and funds to support the survivors of sorcery accusation-related violence (SARV) in the highlands of Papua New Guinea.

TOI STORE PROFILE

Fiona Bryant



Fiona's first introduction to clay was as a child, where she used to dig up the clay from their backyard and make birds' nests with eggs. In 2013, she completed

a three-year diploma in Māori Visual Arts through TWA, Whirikoka campus, Gisborne. Her main medium was uku, although she enjoys acrylic painting as well. Since then, Fiona has been a practising artist.

"I express my artwork by drawing in the natural surroundings of whenua, forest and tangata. I have a great love for my forebears, and I honour them through the medium of clay."



During the show which ended on 1 August, the extraordinary Evelyn Kunda represented the Defenders at Pātaka in the Spine, creating more bilum while sharing her heartbreaking story. Her personal mission was the driver for the show – to raise money to build a safe house to feed, shelter and save the lives of the sheer numbers of beaten, tortured and displaced SARV victims arriving destitute in town. Many of us bought bilums to support her cause. Almost \$10,000 was raised through bilum sales and donations, all proceeds direct to the Safe House project. Toi Store is now selling bilum.