

ROBYN KAHUKIWA
Until 17 December 2025

Phillida Reid is honoured to present *Robyn Kahukiwa*, a gathering of work by the revered Aotearoa New Zealand artist (Ngāti Porou, Te Aitanga-a-Hauti, Ngāti Konohi, Te Whānau-a-Ruataupare, 1938 – 2025). This exhibition has been put together in accordance with Kahukiwa's wishes before her passing in April of this year, with the support of Reina Kahukiwa and Season.

Spanning three decades of Kahukiwa's career, from the 1990s to 2025, the exhibition comprises paintings and drawings from public and private collections, and the artist's estate. Kahukiwa's work was last shown outside of Aotearoa at Sharjah Biennial 15: *Thinking Historically in the Present* (2023). This will be her first show in the UK since 1999's *Māori!*, presented at Maud Sulter's gallery Rich Women of Zurich, in London.

The art of Robyn Kahukiwa is based on whakapapa and our connection to our Tūpuna Māori [Māori ancestors]; it is an expression of the beauty, culture, and rights of Māori people. In Robyn's own words, her artworks reflect the mana and status of her people, along with their strength, resilience, dynamism and continuance. Robyn's core themes of whakapapa [genealogy] and Tūpuna are embodied in the values and wisdom handed down from our ancestors, as in the following whakataukī [saying], where the importance of whakapapa, the past, present and future are intertwined:

Kia whakatōmuri te haere whakamua

I walk backwards into the future with my eyes fixed on my past

—Reina Kahukiwa, *Tangata Whenua: Recent works by Robyn Kahukiwa*, 2023



Tihe Mauri Ora
1990
oil and alkyd oil on unstretched canvas
210 x 358 cm
PR-KAHU0015
Fletcher Trust Collection, Tāmaki Makaurau
Auckland



Ancestor
2025
acrylic on linen
90 x 70 cm
PR-KAHU0018



*E kore e hekeheke, he kakano rangatira,
A Noble Heritage Will Never Perish*
1994
oil and alkyd oil on unstretched canvas
158 x 156.5cm
PR-KAHU0014
Private Collection, Tāmaki Makaurau
Auckland



Toitū te Tiriti o Waitangi
2024
acrylic on linen
90 x 70 cm
PR-KAHU0017



Incarcerated
2022
acrylic on cotton canvas
90 x 70 cm
PR-KAHU0008
Private Collection, UAE



Wahine Toa
2023
acrylic on linen
70 x 90 cm
PR-KAHU0006
Private Collection, Tāmaki
Makaurau Auckland



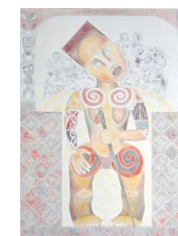
Whaea
2024
acrylic on linen
90 x 70 cm
PR-KAHU0003



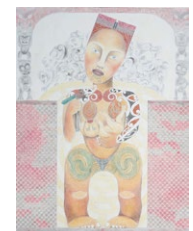
Paepae/Threshold II
1997
oil on unstretched
canvas
215 x 133.5 cm
PR-KAHU0013



Hapū
2022
Coloured pencil on
paper
35.5 cm x 20 cm
PR-KAHU0009



Monumental Hine Whāinga
2010
graphite and coloured pencil
on canvas on board
200 x 150 cm
PR-KAHU0012



Monumental Hine Pūkenga
2010
graphite and coloured pencil
on canvas on board
200 x 150 cm
PR-KAHU0011

ROBYN KAHUKIWA (Ngāti Porou, Te Aitanga-a-Hauiti, Ngāti Konohi, Te Whānau-a-Ruataupare, 1938 – 2025,) was a leading Māori artist and activist whose practice deeply engages with themes of heritage, identity, and sovereignty central to Māori experience in Aotearoa New Zealand and to Indigenous communities globally. Her interdisciplinary practice is an expression of Indigenous knowledge systems, exploring concepts of motherhood, ancestral knowledge, whakapapa (genealogy) and tikanga Māori (Māori customs and values), whilst addressing the impacts of colonisation and the ongoing dispossession of Indigenous peoples.

Kahukiwa's notable solo exhibitions include *Robyn Kahukiwa: Tohunga Mahi Toi*, New Zealand Portrait Gallery Te Pūkenga Whakaata (2024, touring through 2026); *Tuawahine*, Season, Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland (2024); *Mana Māori Motuhake*, Season, Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland (2022); *Maumahara: Remember: Selected Works 1971–2012*, Mahara Gallery, Waiakanae (2012); *Mauri Ora!*, Dowse Art Museum, Te Awakairangi Lower Hutt (2002, toured); *Māori!*, Rich Women of Zurich, London (1998); and *Wāhine Toa: Women in Māori Myth*, Wairarapa Arts Centre, Whakaoriori Masterton (1983, toured). Group exhibitions include *Thinking Historically in the Present*, Sharjah Biennial 15 (2023); *Toi Tū Toi Ora: Contemporary Māori Art*, Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki (2020–21); *Five Māori Painters*, Auckland Art Gallery (2014); *New Zealand Natives*, Montserrat Gallery, New York (2004); *The 1st Asia-Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art*, Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane (1993); and *Te Waka Toi: Contemporary Māori Art from New Zealand* (1992–94, toured across the USA and Aotearoa NZ).

Her works are held in collections such as Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki; Staatliche Museen zu Berlin; Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa; National Gallery of Australia; Te Manawa, Te Papaioea Palmerston North; and Waikato Museum Te Whare Taonga o Waikato, Kirikiriroa Hamilton; and more. In recognition of her achievements, she was awarded the Te Tohu Aroha mō Te Arikinui Dame Te Atairangikaahu | Exemplary/Supreme Award (2020) and the Te Tohu Toi Kē a Te Waka Toi | Making a Difference Award (2011) by Te Waka Toi.



Wahine
2024
acrylic on linen
60 x 50 cm
PR-KAHU0001



Cause and Effect
2023
acrylic on canvas
76 x 76 cm
PR-KAHU0007



Tipuna Wahine
2023
acrylic on linen
90 x 70 cm
PR-KAHU0005
Private Collection, London



Karanga (call from my heart)
2011
acrylic on canvas
101.5 x 75 cm
PR-KAHU0016



Wahine, kereru me nīkau (Māori woman, pigeon and palm tree)
2004
oil on canvas
60 x 76 cm
PR-KAHU0019



Violence Then and Now
2019
graphite, ink, and watercolour
on paper
38 x 56 cm
PR-KAHU0010



Haka
2024
acrylic on linen
60 x 50 cm
PR-KAHU0002