

KŌTUI

Practitioner exhibitors

David K. Shields, photographer, and Kiri Nathan, artist; New Zealand

Corresponding exhibitor: David K Sheilds, bigkiwiwdave@gmail.com

Reviewers

Tūhura Otago Museum team and Margo Barton

Gallery

Beautiful Science Gallery, Level 1, Tūhura Otago Museum

Keywords

Mātauranga, raranga, mahi tahi, whakamōhio, whānaungatanga

Abstract

Kaupapa āpiti: Interwoven narratives, illustrated in photographic capture, form a contemporary representation of traditionally learned practices working conjointly with today's Māori youth.

The collaboration crosses generational and racial divides, and serves to emphasize progressive approaches to the fields of art, culture and education in Aotearoa New Zealand, with participants' informed by mātauraka Māori. The past provides us with the knowledge we require, and it is upon us all to weave new threads into an emergent future full of diversity.

Weaver (raranga), designer, artist and community leader Kiri Nathan infuses her own practice with historic knowledge passed to her from her grandmother (tipuna wahine). With this esteemed guidance, her chosen a path as kaitiaki of these treasures incorporates both her desire of passing this knowledge to future generations and belief that those who follow are taonga in their own right—a kaupapa which allows her own strengths to shine through in a cultural landscape which reveres more and more the use of sustainable practices, most obviously visible lately in the properties associated with indigenous understandings. Highlighted by evolving mentalities toward sustainability and the need to ensure a better world for those who will follow, the traditions of rangitiratanga and kaitiakitanga should help us define a future embedded with knowledge gained from te ao Māori.

With whānaungatanga as an overriding principle, we have been recording this application of traditional learnings to her processes of making and her continued efforts in the education and support of emerging indigenous practitioners. To ensure their success in an ever-evolving world made smaller with the constant advancement of technology and globalisation, it is in our duty

of care to Papatūānuku and te ao Māori's teachings that we will ultimately find the lessons to sustain us all as we advance. Focussing primarily on the different generations working together and making decisions for the collective good of all the community is implicit in this. Through the lens of contemporary art and fashion we showcase both her mahi and the talents of those she encourages with her manaakitanga and alliance, as well as those taonga learned from her tīpuna.

In support of future generations of emerging Māori and Pasifika designers, Kiri has chosen to share her own contacts and knowledge selflessly with those whose future will be determined by their abilities to find and create their own space. In a world finally coming to terms with inherent understandings gleaned from traditional practices and those who espouse them, and for our generations to come, it is important we support those who embrace this concept of Māoritanga as they create new pathways forward for themselves. Socio-cultural boundaries are only going to be more evident with the world becoming smaller and more diverse: the adaptations we face must be something we all strive to embrace in unity, for the future of all.



Image 1. David K. Shields, photographer; Kiri Nathan (Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Hine, Ngāti Maru, Ngāti Hauā, Ngāti Paoa), artist; Jamie Stanton, model.



Image 2. David K. Shields, photographer; Kiri Nathan (Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Hine, Ngāti Maru, Ngāti Hauā, Ngāti Paoa), artist; Yasmin Bidois (Te Aupouri, Ngāti Awa), model.