

# E takarae ki te muri i raro mata raranga mai kaewa ki te rangi ko au ki raro whakaaro rangi ai.\*

## Ngahuia Harrison

ST PAUL St Gallery Two

13 April - 26 May 2017

Ngahuia Harrison's exhibition project began with a conversation she had with her Aunty shortly before her passing in November 2016. The conversation was about the role of kaumātua and kuia in Aotearoa today, and in Treaty settlement negotiations, specifically in relation to the process that Harrison's hapū, Ngati Rehua (of Ngātiwai iwi) are currently in the midst of.

As both witness to and participant in this settlement process, Harrison is aware of the competing temporalities at stake as two worlds, with different politics and understandings of whakapapa and history, converge: "This process, which is not new, is demanding when attempting to work within a system, language and a temporality that has been imposed upon you. When you are made to seek recompense within the system that caused the pain in the first place while concurrently being further undermined by the Crown."

The project responds to these different temporalities, considering their opposing concepts of urgency. There is urgency imposed on hapū by the Crown's desire to "finish everything off,"<sup>1</sup> to complete settlements for better or worse, and importantly, the belittling of the role of kaumātua and kuia in this process. While Harrison's whānau, hapū and iwi work under the pressure of legal deadlines, generations become further detached from tūrangawaewae, reo kāinga and tikanga kāinga.

A second urgency is the iwi's own in relation to kaitiakitanga of mātauranga. With the loss of many kaumātua and kuia who, with their knowledge of Ngātiwai history, are the kaiārahi (guides, mentors) for whānau, the stresses of numerous Waitangi Urgency Hearings take on additional weight. Harrison's intention is to make a space where time can slow down, where we can sit and contemplate those who came before us, those yet to come, and our elders who are our pou tokomanawa.<sup>2</sup> The project is an articulation of the urgent need to slow down.

The Ngātiwai flag holds the space; the text on it reads "Kia tupato, ka tangi tukaiaia ko Ngātiwai ki te moana e rere ake nei / When you hear the cry of the Tukaiaia, beware, Ngātiwai are upon the sea." The flag locates the exhibition within Ngātiwai; the whakatauki is a forewarning of the approach of Ngātiwai.

The wooden tūru (seats) allow for the present-moment of listening and contemplation to be extended. Built by Harrison from Pūriri, the seats belong to her marae and will be returned there after the exhibition. The photographic portrait images are of Harrison's brother Kahu, named after their maternal grandfather's mother. These images bring in and emphasise the balance of young and old and the layers of time that create whakapapa. Harrison says, "My namesake, Raima, was the mother of Kahu, wife of Hone Paama. Names are mechanisms of whakapapa, linking us to our tūpuna, keeping them with us." A kete, Pūriri branches in water and a folded stack of tea towels in the accompanying images each hold a sense of cyclic or wide-open time. Harrison has written of such images as offering "an apparatus of hope", a temporality which is grounded in whakapapa, and a strong counter image to the imperative forward motion of the Crown's process.

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<sup>1</sup>Brook Sabin, 'Govt misses treaty settlement deadline', *Newshub*, 24 December 2013. <http://www.newshub.co.nz/politics/govt-misses-treaty-settlement-deadline-2013122415>

<sup>2</sup> Pou tokomanawa are the centre ridge poles of the meeting house.

\* *I stumble on ahead my face turns skyward although I am below my thoughts are floating through the sky.*

The patere that is the project's title was recited by Harrison's tupuna Hone Paama at the Māori Land Court hearings determining the tenure of Hauturu (Little Barrier Island). MLC MD No. 4.

# E takarae ki te muri i raro mata raranga mai kaewa ki te rangi ko au ki raro whakaaro rangi ai.\*

## Nā Ngahuia Harrison

ST PAUL St Gallery Two

13 Paengawhāwhā - 26 Haratua

I tīmata te whakaaturanga a Ngahuia Harrison i ana kōrero ki tōna whaea kēkē i mua tata i tōna matenga i te marama o Whiringa-ā-nuku i tau 2016. Ko te kaupapa o tā rāua kōrero ko te tūranga o ngā kaumātua me ngā kuia i Aotearoa i ēnei rā nei, i roto anō hoki i ngā whakataunga Tiriti i waenganui tonu i te hapū o Harrison, o Ngāti Rehua, hapū o Ngātiwai.

Nā tana whai wāhitanga atu ki ngā whakahaere whakataunga i mōhio ai a Harrison ki te taupatupatu i ara ake i te tūtakitanga o ēnei tirohanga ā-ao, ā-tōrangapū, ā-whakapapa, ā-hītori: "Ehara tēnei whakahaere i te whakahaere hōu, engari he taumaha nā te mea e mahi ana koe i tētahi pūnaha, i tētahi reo me tētahi nohoanga kua utaina ki runga i a koe, i a koe e whai ana kia ea i tēnei whakahaere ngā mamae nāna anō i whakarite, waihoki, e whakahāweatia ana koe e te Karauna."

I ara ake tēnei whakaaturanga hei whakahoki ki ēnei nohoanga rerekē e rua, e whai whakaaro anō hoki tēnei ki ngā tūmomo whakaaro totoa. E totoatia ana ngā hapū e te Karauna "kia mutu wawe"<sup>1</sup> ngā whakataunga, ahakoa te pai, te kino rānei. E whakahāweatia nei te tūranga o ngā kaumātua me ngā kuia nā tēnei tikanga. I te whānau, te hapū me te iwi o Harrison e mahi ana i raro i ngā tikanga here ā-ture, e tawhiti haere ana ngā reanga i ō rātou tūrangawaewae, reo kāinga, tikanga kāinga anō hoki. Ko tētahi atu take totoa e ahu mai ana i te iwi tonu mō te taha ki te kaitiakitanga o ngā mātauranga o Ngātiwai. E rangona ana te totoatanga i ngā whakataunga Tiriti i te mate haeretanga o ngā kaumātua me ngā kuia, arā ngā kaipupuri i ngā mātauranga o Te Ao Māori, ko rātou ngā kaiārahi i ngā whānau. Ko te whāinga a Harrison, kia whakaritea tētahi wāhi kāore e herea ana e te wā, he wāhi e noho ai te tangata ki te whakaaro ki a rātou mā kua ngaro, ki a rātou mā kāore anō kia whānau mai, ki ō tātou kaumātua anō hoki, arā ngā poutokomanawa.<sup>2</sup> He tohu tēnei kaupapa i te mate nui kia āta haere tātou.

E noho ana i tēnei wāhi te kara o Ngātiwai, me ōna kupu e mea ana, "Kia tupato, ka tangi tukaiaia ko Ngātiwai ki te moana e rere ake nei." Nā te kara nei i whakatū te whakaaturanga nei i roto i a Ngātiwai, he whakataukī tēnei e whakatupato an ai te tangata i te whakaeke mai a Ngātiwai.

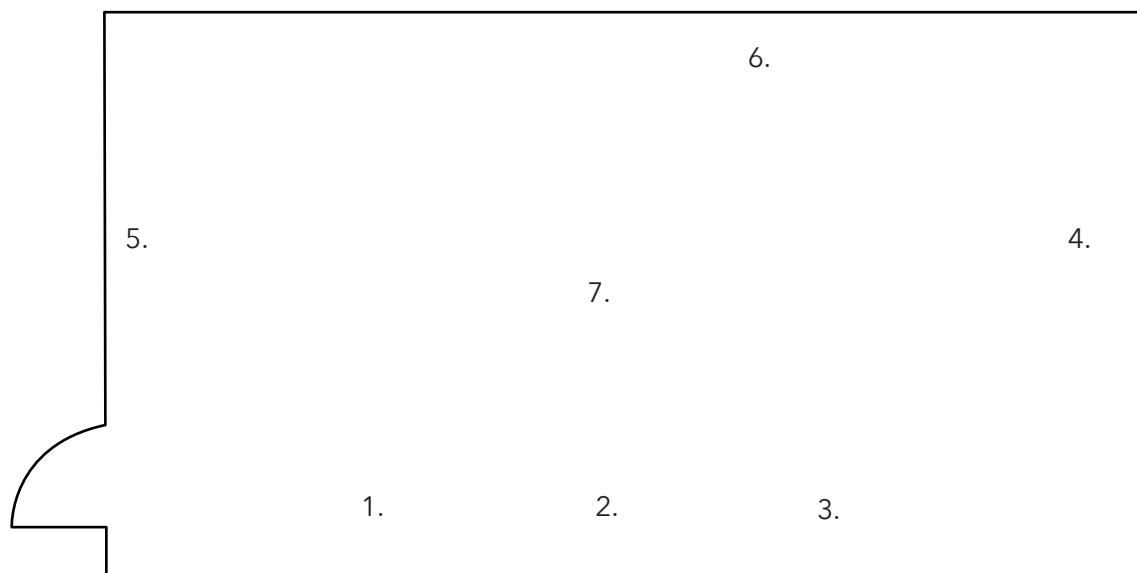
Ko ngā tūru hei nohoanga kia roa ai te noho me te whakarongo. He mea hanga e Harrison ki te pūriri. Ko ēnei tūru nō tōna marae, ā, ka whakahoki anō ki reira, mutu ana te whakaaturanga. Ko te tungāne o Harrison, ko Kahu tōna ingoa, te tangata i ngā whakaahua, he mea tapa ia ki te ingoa o tō rāua tupuna kuia i te taha o tō rāua koroua. Ko tā ēnei whakaahua, he whakakite i te rangatahi me te pakeke, he tohu i te whakapapa. Hei tā Harrison, "nō Raima tōku ingoa, ko ia te whaea o Kahu, hei wahine ki a Hone Paama. He tūhonohono te mahi a te ingoa, i a tātou ki ō tātou tūpuna." He kete, he peka pūriri i roto i te wai, he pūkai tītāora anō hoki ētahi atu whakaahua e tohu ana i te whānuitanga o tēnei mea, o te wā. Hei tā ētahi tuhinga nā Harrison, he homai tūmanako ēnei tūmomo whakaahua, he oranga i tupu mai i te whakapapa, he whakaahua e noho hāngai ana ki tā te Karauna tikanga totoa kia neke whakamua.

### Te Reo translation by Hēmi Kelly

<sup>1</sup> Brook Sabin, 'Govt misses treaty settlement deadline', *Newshub*, 24 December 2013. <http://www.newshub.co.nz/politics/govt-misses-treaty-settlement-deadline-2013122415>  
<sup>2</sup> Pou tokomanawa are the centre ridge poles of the meeting house.

\* I waiatatia te pātēre, nō reira te ingoa o tēnei kaupapa e te tupuna o Harrison, e Hone Paama i ngā hui a Te Kōti Whenua Māori e whakataua ana i te mana whenua o Hauturu (Little Barrier Island). MLC MD 4.

# Floorplan



## List of works

1. *Aunty Sarah's Tea Towels*, 2017. Inkjet photograph, 141x110cm.
2. *Ka Kata ngā Pūriri over a cup of tea*, 2017. Inkjet photograph, 141x110cm.
3. *Uncle Hone's Kete*, 1988, 2017. Inkjet photograph, 141x110cm.
4. *Kahu who is named after his Great-Grandmother*, 2017. Inkjet photograph, 141x110cm.
5. *Kahu who is named by his Grandfather*, 2017. Inkjet photograph, 141x110cm.
6. *Ngātiwai flag*, 2017. Linen, aluminium pole. With thanks to Diane Burkhardt.
7. *Whakapaumahara tūru*, 2012. Pūriri, steel brackets.

