

'Roots'

Inspired by origin and identity, this work symbolises the collective journey of my family to learn more about our ancestry and where we came from.

As a family, we have travelled to the far north of the Country and spent time in the places my father grew up, visited the Marae and the resting places of our ancestors. We all felt an instant connection to Whangape, which is a beautiful unspoiled and remote spot on the west coast of the Northern tip of the North Island.

'Like the root of a plant that attaches itself deeply and firmly into the ground for support, it is our heritage that shall keep us grounded and stop us from blowing aimlessly in the wind.'

It is important to look back, to be able to move forward.

The model in the picture is my niece who is a teacher. Beautiful, strong and smart! I wanted to portray her as the goddess Papatuanuku, the Earth Mother herself. Here she rises from the earth, surrounded by nature, engulfed in kawakawa leaves.