



EUGENE KARA

Ngāti Koroki, Kahukura, Ngāti Tipa, Ngāti Koata, Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāti Pāhauwera, Te Atihaunui a Pāpārangī, Ngā Rauru, Tūwharetoa, Te Arawa

Eugene Kara is a sculptor and multi-disciplinary artist, specialising in bronze casting. In 2013 Eugene established Te Ahi Koomau Bronze Foundry at the New Zealand Maori Arts and Crafts Institute, Te Puia, Rotorua.

Based in Rotorua, Eugene has been active in the arts sector as a practitioner and advocate for more than twenty years and produced work for both gallery and outdoor spaces.

Kara's experience has seen him work as a Head Caster, Lecturer, Head of Art Departments, Programme Developer and Advisor, and more recently, Lead Developer of the Waikato Tainui Toi Strategy and Lead Co-Ordinator for Ngāti Koroki Kahukura cultural symbolism. In this role, Kara ensures that the korero of mana whenua is represented through toi within new local and central government infrastructure.



MIKE GREEN

Ngāti Raukawa, Ngāti Tūwharetoa

Mike is an established sculptor and the Head of Whakairo at Rotorua Boys High.

Mike also plays a pivotal role in developing and leading the New Zealand Qualification Authority national curriculum development for whakairo.

Mike has formal fine art training underpinned by marae-based experiential learning.

In the early 1990s Mike graduated with a Diploma in Contemporary Māori Art from Waiariki Polytechnic. Under the mentorship of Lyonel Grant, Mike contributed to the building of Ihenga, the whare whakairo at Tāngatarua Marae, Rotorua. This was followed by a Fine Arts Degree with Elam School of Fine Arts, University of Auckland, graduating in 2003.

Green has featured in many exhibitions across Aotearoa and is a part of the Mata Toki (Leading Edge) kaiwhakairo movement.



SIMON LARDELLI

Ngāti Kōnohi, Rongowhakaata, Taranaki

Simon Lardelli is a multi-disciplinary artist who practices traditional and contemporary carving, sculpture and painting. He is also involved with iwi projects such as marae restoration and youth mentoring.

Through his iconic figurative imagery, Simon explores the use of negative and positive spaces to depict the pou tokomanawa, the centre ridge post of the whareniui. His work is brought to life through lighting, which pulsates through the design and reflecting ancestral connections to the whenua.



DANIEL ORMSBY

Ngāti Maniapoto

Daniel works across painting, whakairo rākau, tā moko and education. His studio/gallery 'The Red Shed' is located at Waitomo.

Art is a way of life for Daniel, a life-long passion, particularly within the Māori art arena. Through tradition and cultural responsibilities Daniel has found his place and purpose in the world, with a multitude of mediums available to record and preserve tribal history, whakapapa (genealogy) and religious or spiritual beliefs.

Ormsby is driven by the journey to discover and push through creative boundaries as well as the excitement of watching things develop from an idea into a reality. The responsibility of taking charge of his creative vision, knowing that his art and his actions will go on to inspire others, are all facets of his approach to art.



NATHAN ROA

Ngāti Maniapoto, Ngāti Paretekawa, Ngāti Kinohaku, Te Ātiawa, Ngāti Rarua

Nathan is a multi-talented artist with a broad scope, specialising in ceramics, whakairo, paint and music, and works from 'The Red Shed' studio in Waitomo.

Roa is dedicated to ensuring the unique visual language of Maniapoto are maintained through numerous marae projects. His work reflects whakapapa in a fresh contemporary style.

Roa was a part of the foundation Maori Visual Art programme at Te Wānanga o Aotearoa – Te Awamutu in the early 1990s and went on to become part of the first graduates with a degree in whakairo.



KEREAMA TAEPA

Te Arawa, Te Āti Awa

Kereama Taepa is a multidisciplinary artist based in Tauranga Moana. Since completing a Master of Māori Visual Arts at Toioho ki Āpiti, Massey University, in Te Papa-i-Oea/Palmerston North in 2006, Taepa's work has spanned fashion, painting, sculpture and digital technologies. Consistent across his exploration of media is an investigation of the tradition of innovation within te ao Māori (the Māori world).

Taepa has been recognised in several art awards, winning the Supreme Award at the Molly Morpeth 2D Awards in 2008 and receiving the Rotorua Museum Supreme Art Award in 2017. In 2018, Taepa was the Artist in Residence at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity in Alberta, Canada.