



## HŌHUA THOMPSON

Hōhua Thompson (Te Aitanga-a-Hauiti, Ngāti Kahu, Ngāti Awa, Ngāti Rangiwewehi) graduated with an MFA from Whitecliffe School of Fine Arts in 2021 and has realised projects with City Gallery Wellington, The Dowse Art Museum, Enjoy Contemporary Art Space, Blue Oyster Art Project Space, Aotearoa Art Fair, Toi Māori Gallery and Tairāwhiti Museum. His first dealer gallery exhibition in Tāmaki Makaurau will introduce local audiences to the significant artworks previously exhibited in major public galleries in Te Whanganui-a-Tara Wellington, The Dowse Art Museum and City Gallery Wellington.

Working at scale, Thompson's work reflects on intergenerational knowledge transmission, storytelling and kaitiakitanga. His practice combines traditional Māori art forms such as whakairo and tukutuku with modern materials and processes to communicate stories from his own whakapapa, and to examine how these stories may apply to wider Māori communities.

He has stated, *The way I have had it explained to me, in te ao Māori we have two kinds of stories, purakau and pakiwaitara. The simplest way to describe the distinction between the two is that purakau are stories about gods: think the separation of Rangi and Papa, Tane's ascension through the heavens; while pakiwaitara deal with the exploits of our tupuna: think the migration stories and all of the stories since then.*

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What both kinds of stories have in common is that they connect us through space and time to our ancestors, demonstrable in the substantial work *Te Haehaenga O Pekehāua*, recently exhibited in *Memory Lines* curated by Dr Kirsty Baker for City Gallery Wellington. Occupying and imposing on physical space with an evocative presence, a mōteatea chant is heard above, a means to reinforce Ngāti Rangiwewehi knowledge within the space. This mōteatea is a recording of Hōhua, his mother and father and cousin Casey, referencing the way in which mōteatea were often played on a marae as a way of handing down long stories associated with tribal boundaries and ancestral whakapapa.

*One of the most important aspects of both pakiwaitara and purakau is the art of storytelling. It is typical that stories would be told in order to teach a desired lesson, sometimes posed more as open-ended questions rather than giving any straight answers, in order to inspire introspective thought and contemplation. In this way, Storytelling is an integral part of my artistic practice. It has become a way for me to interrogate the position we, as Māori, occupy in contemporary New Zealand society ... This is all to say that stories of my ancestors' exploits have greatly influenced the work that I make, and the stories I choose to share. For the last few years, the works that I have created have all stemmed from an older story, or rather, a series of intertwined stories.*

Thompson has worked as a Curator of Community Exhibitions at Pātaka Art + Museum, a Collections Assistant at Museums Wellington, and Toi Māori Education and Audience Intern at Enjoy Contemporary Art Space. He also has a background in youth and social work, and is currently a youth coach in Rotorua.

# TCG

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*Te Haehaenga o Pekehāua, 2024*

ply, wood and acrylic

\$25,000

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*Te Haehaenga o Pekehāua, 2024*  
*Installation views*

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*Te Ua tahi, 2024*

Corflute, plywood and recycled rimu

1125 x 675 mm

\$1500

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*Pāiki rua, 2024*

Corflute, plywood and recycled rimu

1200 x 750 mm

\$2000

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*Pāiki tahi, 2024*

Corflute, plywood and recycled rimu

1200 x 750mm

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*Roimata tahi*, 2024

Corflute, plywood and recycled rimu

1125 x 675 mm

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*Roimata rua, 2024*

Corflute, plywood and recycled rimu

1125 x 675 mm

\$1500

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*Poutama rua, 2024*

Corflute, plywood and recycled rimu

1200 x 375mm

\$1000

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*Poutama tahi, 2024*

Corflute, plywood and recycled rimu

1200 x 375 mm

\$1000

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*Kaokao tahi, 2024*

Corflute, plywood and recycled rimu

1125 x 675 mm

\$1500

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*Kaokao rua, 2024*

Corflute, plywood and recycled rimu

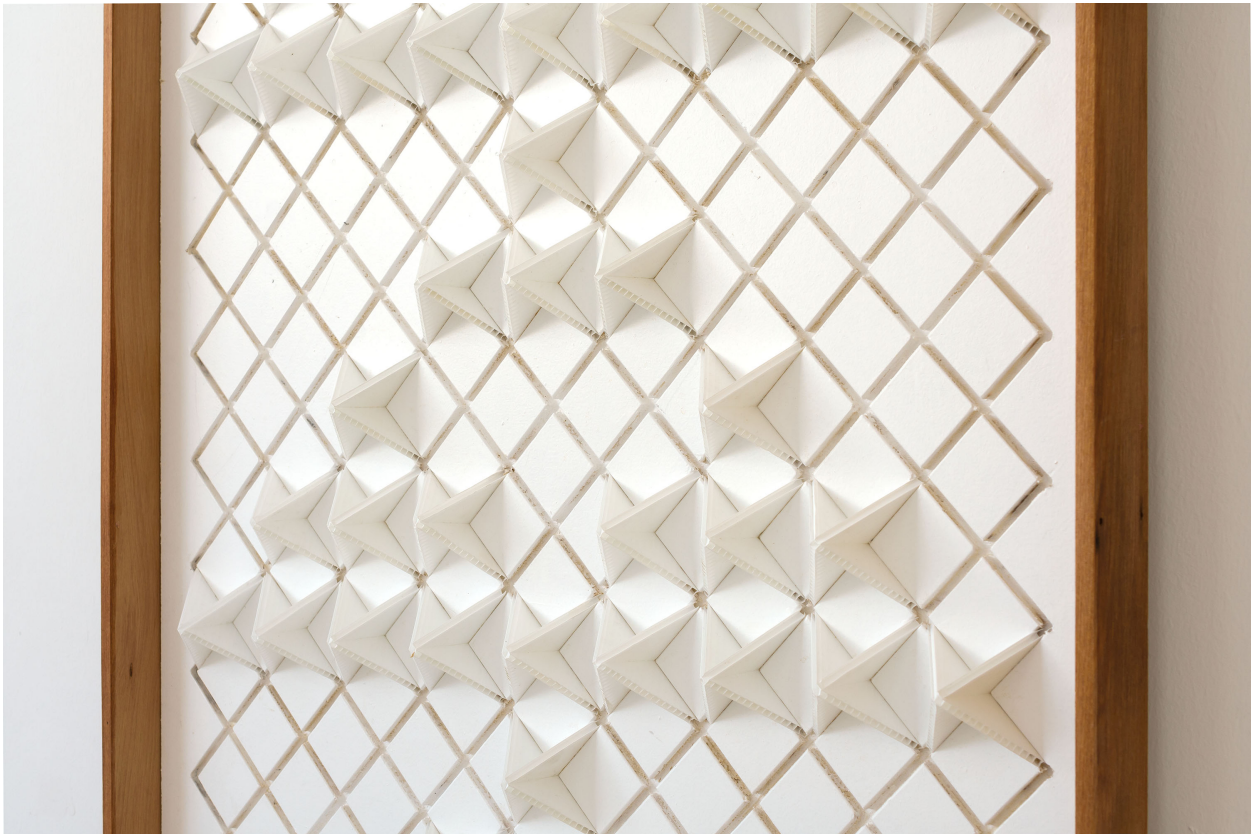
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(Detail) *Niho Taniwha*, 2024

Corflute, plywood and recycled rimu

1200 x 750 mm

\$2000

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*Te Kete Rokiroki, 2020*

*kumara, earth*

*\$18,000*



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*Te Kete Rokiroki, 2020*

kumara, earth

\$18,000



## HŌHUA THOMPSON

b. 1990, Rotoiti, New Zealand

Lives and works in Rotoiti, Aotearoa New Zealand

## EDUCATION

2021 MFA, Whitecliffe School of Fine Arts, Auckland, New Zealand

2018 BFA, Whitecliffe School of Fine Arts, Auckland, New Zealand

## AWARDS

2018 Finalist, Eden Arts Art School Awards, St Paul's Street Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2023 *Runga/Raro*, Space Studio and Gallery, Whanganui, New Zealand

2022 *Kua Whati Te Rākau*, Enjoy Contemporary Art Space, Wellington, New Zealand

2020 *Te Kete Rokiroki*, Blue Oyster Art Project Space, Dunedin, New Zealand

2019 *Taumanu*, Demo Art Space, Auckland

2018 *Kirihou*, Toi Maōri Gallery, Wellington, New Zealand

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2024 *Memory Lines*, City Gallery, Wellington, New Zealand

2021 *From The Ground Up*, The Dowse Art Museum, Lower Hutt, New Zealand

2021 *Wheturangi – Star Cluster*, Space Studio and Gallery, Whanganui, New Zealand

2020 *Native Voices: Ko Au Ko Mātou*, Tairāwhiti Museum, Gisborne, New Zealand