

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CONTEMPORARY CULTURAL CONNECTIONS, Paintings, Prints and Sculpture by Contemporary Maori artists and One Navajo Artist

WHO: Contemporary Art from New Zealand, twelve artists featuring Sandy Adsett, recipient of the Order of New Zealand for Services to Art and the well-known, multi-talented June Northcroft Grant and eight students from Toimairangi College of Contemporary Visual Arts plus new work by their friend and colleague, Melanie Yazzie, Navajo.

WHAT: Artists Reception, free to the public

WHERE: GLENN GREEN GALLERIES AND SCULPTURE GARDEN, 136 Tesuque Village Road, Tesuque, New Mexico

WHEN: Thursday, July 5, 2007, 5 to 7 p.m.

CONTACT: Glenn, Sandy or Kerry Green at (505) 820-0008 or kerry@glenngreengalleries.com

Through our professional relationship and friendship with Melanie Yazzie, we were introduced in 2000 to a number of outstanding Maori artists. We traveled to Gisborne, New Zealand for a Maori-sponsored Indigenous Art Conference where we all celebrated the first light of the new millennium.

We were intrigued and impressed with contemporary Maori art in all its permutations. This exhibit will be our third featuring artists from Aotearoa (the Maori name for New Zealand).

This group of artists was selected by Sandy Adsett, recipient of the Order of New Zealand for Services to Art, that nation's most prestigious honor. He is an acclaimed painter and influential Maori art educator who founded Toimairangi, a new College of Contemporary Visual Arts in Hastings. His tribal affiliations are Ngati Kahungunu and Ngati Pahuawera. He has chosen the following student artists to be part of this exhibit: Michelle Ngarongo Mataira, Matthew Randall, Francisca Charlotte Moeroa Obers, Michelle Nichols, Kylie Tiuka, Jackie Makarena Hawkins, Shanon Hoani Hawea, Petera Te Hiwiori Maynard. Also showing is the much-lauded painter, June Northcroft Grant, and Navajo artist, Melanie Yazzie who also helped facilitate this exhibit.

Yazzie has met and collaborated with indigenous artists throughout the world and has traveled numerous times to New Zealand where she has a large circle of artist friends. She is sought after as an artist, lecturer and teacher. She is an Associate Professor of Art at the University of Colorado in Boulder. Her work has been exhibited internationally, is widely collected and reflects her own culture as well as her interactions with other cultures.

Also exhibiting with this group is Noelle Jakeman, a well-established Maori ceramicist/sculptor, who has shown with our gallery for a number of years. She will not be present at the opening.

Three of the students made artist statements that we feel are interesting.

Francisca Charlotte Moeroa Obers, said the following:

“I believe that we are all working toward the preservation of our unique cultural elements before they get swallowed up in the “monoculture” that has been ever so subtly infiltrating our globe and laying waste to the different cultures of the world.”

Kylie Tiuka of the Nagai Tuhoe group related: “The constant interaction with other indigenous cultures plays an important part in the preservation of our collective whakapapa (genealogy). Our visual cultures and customs have similar aspects while at the same time remaining very unique. There is a common thread that connects us, with each sharing a mutual respect for our heritage, beliefs, taonga (treasures) and general ways of life.”

Michelle Nichols made the following statements about her work: “My work reflects characteristics of my own genealogical narrative, my connection to whenua (ancestral land). This continual exciting journey of discovery we are on, gaining knowledge and enlightenment from information and connections we make with people and other cultures, allows us create a visual dialogue that speaks of who we are and the recognition of where we’ve come from as a people.”

Sandy Adsett- Maori Artist

Ngati Kahungunu
Ngati Pahauwera

Tribal affiliation/groups.



"Maori have an obligation to the art of his/her people. It's the people's art. It must identify Maori to Maori if it is going to remain relevant to statements about our tribal beliefs, values and mana (standing) in today's and tomorrow's world."

Recent Exhibitions:

2007

Te Huringa / Turning Points
Hawke's Bay Exhibition Centre – Hastings, New Zealand

Kimihia – Te Arawa Festival Exhibition
Te Arawa Convention Centre – Rotorua, New Zealand

2006

Toimairangi / Kamakakuokalani - Center for Hawaiian Studies
University of Hawaii – Manoa, Honolulu

Rahera : Tribute to Rahera Windsor
New Zealand House – London, England

Sandy's Work:



Whanui (2004)

300mm x 300mm (x 4 pieces) acrylic on canvas



Takitoru – triptych (2005)

600mm x 300mm acrylic on canvas



Puhoro – triptych (2003)

1150mm x 760mm acrylic on canvas

NOELLE JAKEMAN-Maori Artist

Recent Exhibit: Understandably Connected-N.C. Gorman Museum, UC Davis, California



Noelle Jakeman Ceramic Sculptures:
"South Auckland Sunshine"
"Mourning a Monarch"
"March"



June Grant-Maori Artist

Tribal affiliations/groups: Te Arawa
Tuwharetoa
Tuhourangi/Ngati Wahiao



Probably the biggest factor in my decision to continue painting and making artworks is my sense of responsibility to my tribe, both to my ancestors and their art providing much of my inspiration, and to the future generations, my children and grandchildren for whom I continue the art tradition.

All that I value in art terms is encompassed in the art forms manifested in the wharenui (meeting house), the whakairo (carvings), the turapa (woven panels) and the raranga (weaving).

I feel fortunate to be living and working in my own tribal area. My references and resources are right on my doorstep, not to mention the counsel and encouragement of my kaumatua (elders).

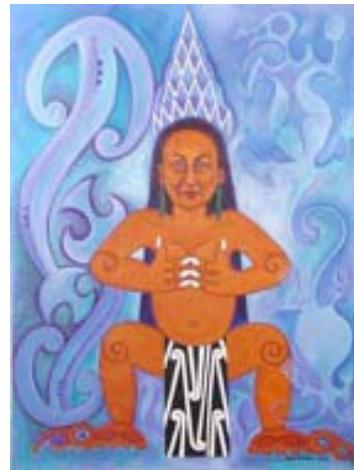
June's Work:



**Kotahi Mano Iwa Rau Wha Tekau Ma Iwa
Nineteen Forty Nine (2004)**
1450 x 1135 mm
acrylic on canvas



**Hine-nui-i-te-Po
Ancestress of the Night (2003)**
1100mm x 750mm
acrylic on canvas



**Te Haerenga
The Journey I (2003)**
1100mm x 750mm
acrylic on canvas

Recent Exhibitions:

2007

Kimihia – Te Arawa Festival Exhibition
Te Arawa Convention Centre – Rotorua, New Zealand

2006

Kamakakuokalani - Center for Hawaiian Studies
University of Hawaii, Manoa, Honolulu

Rahera : Tribute to Rahera Windsor
New Zealand House, London, England

Shanon Hoani Hawea-Maori Artist

Tribal Affiliation/Groups:

Ngati Kahungunu
Ngati Kere
Ngati Kurukuru



We are the carriers of our culture... it is our duty to nurture that which our tipuna (ancestors) gave to us as a legacy. I am lucky to have my art to express my passion for the Maori culture.



Manu (2007)
1050mm x 750mm
acrylic on canvas



Te Anewa (2006)
1050mm x 750mm
acrylic on canvas



Kaitiaki (2005)
1050mm x 750mm
acrylic on canvas

Recent Exhibitions:

2007

Waitangi Day Celebrations
New Zealand High Commission - Sydney, Australia

Kimihia : Te Arawa Festival Exhibition
Te Arawa convention Centre - Rotorua, New Zealand

2006

Moko Tapu : Matariki Celebrations
Hawke's Bay Exhibition Centre – Hastings, New Zealand

Toimairangi : Kamakakuokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies
University of Hawaii - Manoa, Honolulu

Rahera : tribute to Rahera Windsor
New Zealand House – London, England

Melanie Yazzie (Dine)

Recent Exhibitions:

2007 Understandably Connected-

N.C. Gorman Museum, UC Davis, California

2006 Traveling with Diné Artist Melanie Yazzie -

Heard Museum, Phoenix, Arizona

2005 Untold Stories of My Present, Past and Dreamtime
Prints by Melanie Yazzie, Richard F. Brush Art Gallery,
Canton, NY



"Three Souls Meeting" monotype ©2006



"Strength From Within" aluminum ©2005

Matthew Randall-Maori Artist

Tribal affiliation/groups: Ngai Tamanuhiri
Ngati Rakaipaaka



To embrace those who have passed on before us, our tipuna (ancestors), who have been the repositories of vast knowledge, is an important part of being Maori. It is therefore embraced as a part of us, as Maori, acknowledged and recorded through our art, as it has in the past and will into the future.

Ko tapu wae he tapu wae noa iho i nga kirikiri o te wa : your footprints are nothing more than the prints in the sands of time.



Paikea (2006)
450mm x 300mm x 150mm
swamp kauri (NZ native timber),
stainless steel



Whakaranua Whai (2006)
450mm x 400mm x 100mm
casting resin, gelcoat and acrylic
paint



Wero (2005)
450mm x 350mm x 250mm
totara (NZ native timber)

Recent Exhibitions:

2007

Kimihia – Te Arawa Festival Exhibition
Te Arawa Convention Centre – Rotorua, New Zealand

Gifted Sands
Ruawharo Marae, Opoutama – Mahia, New Zealand

2006

Toimairangi : Kamakakuokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies
University of Hawaii - Manoa, Honolulu

Rahera : tribute to Rahera Windsor
New Zealand House – London, England

Mauri Ora
Pataka Museum & Gallery – Porirua, New Zealand