

artist statement

Te AWAHOU COLLECTIVE

Working together in one Spirit

David Pearce

David Pearce is a designer, sculptor and painter whose work focuses on issues of identity. He completed a master's degree in Maori Visual Arts at Putahi a toi at Massey University in 2010 and has a background in teaching art at both secondary and school tertiary levels.

ARTWORK

NEITHER HERE OR THERE

Medium:

Acrylic on
Canvas boards

256cm x 163cm
deep

Kotahi Tonu Wairua o Nga Mea Katoa

'NEITHER HERE OR THERE', This work explores the construction of Pākehā identity through the lens of memory and experience. Rather than a seamless chronicle, our sense of self and belonging is a patchwork woven from fragments—some retained, others forgotten—forming narratives that are often fractured, contradictory, and unstable. This piece functions as an open-ended puzzle, inviting viewers to interpret its assembled fragments.

Central to this dialogue are the concepts of appropriation and bricolage: the way we borrow, quote, and incorporate external elements into our identity. This practice is directly informed by artists Rosalie Gascoigne and Imants Tillers. Tillers famously appropriated New Zealand artists such as Cotton and McCahon to explore Australian identity, while Gascoigne created assemblages from the work of signwriters. Through these references, this work 'Neither here nor there' positions itself within an established artistic lineage exploring postmodern identity.

