

artist statement

Te AWAHOU COLLECTIVE

Working together in one Spirit

Manawa mō āke tonu atu is a mixed-media triptych created to honour the wāhine of my whakapapa through a distinctly Rangitāne lens.

Sweeping from left to right, the work traces a lineage across generations from my 5th great-grandmother Whakarongo, to my great-grandmother Hineiwhakaarahia, to my daughter Āwhina; illustrating how each carries forward the taonga, mātauranga, and mana of those before her.

ARTWORK

ARTWORK title
Kaitiaki

1. Medium:
Mixed media

ARTWORK title
Pampas

2. Medium:
Mixed media

Kotahi Tonu Wairua o Nga Mea Katoa

Karla Karaitiana

(Ngāti Kahungunu, Rangitāne)

Designed as a visual whakapapa rather than three standalone portraits, the piece weaves a continuous thread of strength and aroha through time. Holding a Bachelor of Applied Visual Imaging, I have worked as a professional photographer for over a decade. Manawa mō āke tonu atu marks a nervous return to painting after ten years—a process that has challenged me to step into new medium's and rediscover storytelling through a fresh artistic lens.