



OPPOSITE: Maioha Kara, *Kanapanapa III*, 2020. Birch, stain and glitter, 60cm diameter.
 ABOVE LEFT: Maioha Kara, *Oike*, 2021. Rimu and glitter, 118 x 58 x 5cm.
 ABOVE RIGHT: Maioha Kara, *Tamatea a nganga*, 2021. Birch, stain and glitter, 118 x 58 x 5cm.
 COURTESY: THE ARTIST AND LAREE PAYNE GALLERY, HAMILTON.

MAIOHA KARA

Why pay attention?

Wellington-based artist **Maioha Kara** (Waikato, Ngāti Kahungunu, Te Arawa, Ngāti Porou) has been busy.

In 2020, she opened the solo exhibition *Salutations* at the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth and was included in group exhibitions around Aotearoa New Zealand.

Following a successful presentation with Laree Payne Gallery at Auckland Art Fair 2021 and the recent completion of her MFA at Massey University, Kara is looking ahead to her next body of work, *Whakapiri*.

What do they do?

By making shallow excavations into the surface of the shaped wood, Kara creates careful, geometric patterns filled with shimmering glitter which draw on the repetition and symmetry of *toi Māori* (Māori art).

What's going on?

Kara's works describe the cosmological connections which define the relationship between the natural world and *mātauranga Māori* (Māori knowledge systems). Their glittering patterns are guided by the rhythms and cycles of human and non-human life.

The artist says...

"Throughout all my work is a constant connection to our creation story. I've found great comfort in this narrative, enamoured by the nothingness of *Te Kore* (the Empty Void), the stillness within *Te Pō* (the Perpetual Night) and the brilliance of *Te Ao Marama* (the World of Light and Life)."

See it at...

Kara's exhibition *Whakapiri* shows at Laree Payne Gallery, Hamilton from 27 October to 20 November 2021.

Hanahiva Rose