

HEIDI BRICKELL

## A koru is a trajectory

Mixed media installation, 2024, Enjoy Contemporary Art Space.  
All photographs by Cheska Brown.

*A koru is a trajectory* is a collaboration between Heidi Brickell and the whenua, moana and ngā atua Māori. The materials used in this exhibition explore the relationship between Tangaroa and Tāne Mahuta—atua of the sea and forest. Through her practice, Brickell reinforces her bonds to her tūpuna, te taiao and Te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa. Rākau from Ōtaki, sanded by Tangaroa, is lovingly twined with hand-dyed cotton in shades of blue, green and purple, resulting in contorted sculptural forms that embody the relationship between sea and land. They are connected to spirals, anthropomorphic forms and twisted masses made from rimurapa. Varying in colour and size, these works are suspended from Enjoy's ceiling at different heights. Some are encircled in twined wire, while others have straight rods pierce right through them. Kōhatu and smaller rākau connected to certain works are grounded on the gallery floor using vertical threads. Most works feature koru—the defining motif of toi Māori. Much more than symbolising new life, Brickell considers how the koru form that pervades mātauranga Māori is the fundamental shape of physics that our bodies have learned to weather. Arranged in sequences that allow visitors to weave in between artworks, the artist transforms the gallery to reflect the rimurapa ngahere in the moana that are in steady decline. *A koru is a trajectory* reflects the alarming environment that we live in while simultaneously exemplifying the ways that we can honour it.

—Brooke Pou (Ngāpuhi, Ngāi Te Rangi)





















