

PAKANGA FOR THE LOSTGIRL

◀ ST PAUL ST



Heidi Brickell

6 May - 23 June 2022
St Paul St Gallery One

St Paul St Gallery is pleased to present PAKANGA FOR THE LOSTGIRL, a new commission by artist Heidi Brickell (Te Hika o Papauma, Ngāti Apakura, Ngāti Kahungunu, Rangitāne, Rongomaiwahine) and her first solo exhibition in an institution.

Weaving together elements of painting, drawing, sculpture, and installation, Brickell's work explores the ways knowledge informs and shapes the psychological landscape. Brickell conceptualises aspects of her painted works and wider practice as being in conversation with ways of seeing that are expressed through lineages of whakairo, and often seen in her approach to the pictorial plane as an expanded and porous space to be punctured, lined, washed over, knotted, or any number of treatments she chooses to utilise. For Brickell, this represents an ongoing wānanga around how one understands their relationship to their worlds, both as an individual and as a part of a greater microorganism/whakapapa.

For this exhibition Brickell builds upon her whakairo informed understanding of artmaking and has developed a series of new large-scale works suspended within our Gallery One space. Brickell's installation offers an immersive exhibition experience that calls viewers to be in deeper relation to her works, creating multiple points of orientation that confound a linear or singular viewing perspective. Brickell's installation also works with recently revealed aspects of the gallery's architecture, with its central pillar and street facing window now bare, allowing the artist to conceive of her exhibition design and relationship to the public in new ways.

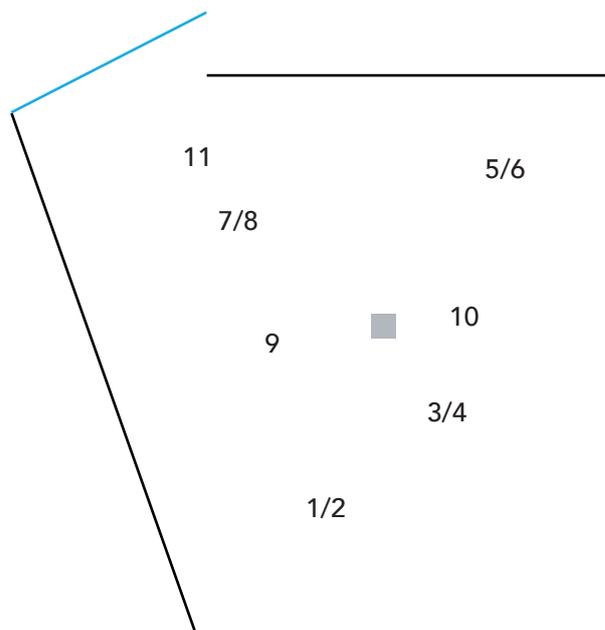
Brickell mentions the whare whakairo, Ihenga, carved by Lyonel Grant for the Wairariki Polytechnic in Te Arawa, as being an impactful work on her practice. In a recent interview she meditates on its importance, saying "The capacity of this whare to travel your mind and integrate so many threads of connection to stories and sensibilities past and present is something incredible. It also links historical forms to more contemporary ones... the way a wharetipuna functions as a sort of a psychological space, albeit a shared, communal

one, is something I'm figuring out in my more personal practice. How art can reflect an authentic mind-space as someone living simultaneously in Māori and Pākehā worlds."

PAKANGA FOR THE LOSTGIRL is a continuation of this thinking for Brickell, expanded on through her playful and explorative use of motif, gesture and language. Detailing the genesis of the exhibition's title Brickell wrote on what she refers to as "aggregate-whakaaro", shards of ideas and thoughts expressed together through simultaneous languages, in this case te reo Māori and the English language. *LOSTGIRL* is one manifestation of this, a literalistic translation of the Māori word, hinengaro, which loosely translates to the mind-heart continuum, or, psyche. Another can be found in her painted and sculptural works, in which she enmeshes gestural interpretations of Māori *tohu* with her invocation of a formalist practice of painting. Brickell describes this as a "copulation of ariā," or as a sort of intercourse between concepts. In her research for this exhibition one focus became the etymology of the word hinengaro, tracing it in conversation with tangata-moana through a whakapapa connected to Sāmoa (finagalo), Tahiti (hinaaro), Marquesas (hinenao), and many other motu, or islands. She says of this process, "each motu has carved through erosion and wear and repurposing, these paired concepts to express and impress a unique and novel phenomenon - the creation of a language, evolving through people sharing experiences."

An interview between Heidi Brickell and Cameron Ah Loo-Matamua, Curator, St Paul St Gallery, will be released during the course of PAKANGA FOR THE LOSTGIRL.

Floorplan



List of works

Gallery One

(1) Heidi Brickell, *Mauri rourou rau: he wehenga, he herenga: matarua mauī*, 2022. Moranti ply, canvas, rabbit skin glue, string derived from torn canvas edge, acrylic, pigmented egg tempera, cotton twine, beeswax, PVA.

(2) Heidi Brickell, *Mauri rourou rau: he wehenga, he herenga: matatahi mauī*, 2022. Moranti ply, canvas, rabbit skin glue, string derived from torn canvas edge, acrylic, pigmented egg tempera, cotton twine, beeswax, PVA.

(3) Heidi Brickell, *Mauri rourou rau: he wehenga, he herenga: matarua kātāu*, 2022. Moranti ply, canvas, rabbit skin glue, string derived from torn canvas edge, acrylic, pigmented egg tempera, cotton twine, beeswax, PVA.

(4) Heidi Brickell, *Mauri rourou rau: he wehenga, he herenga: matatahi kātāu*, 2022. Moranti ply, canvas, rabbit skin glue, string derived from torn canvas edge, acrylic, pigmented egg tempera, cotton twine, beeswax, PVA.

(5) Heidi Brickell, *Mauri rourou rau: he wehenga, he herenga: matatoru kātāu*, 2022. Moranti ply, canvas, rabbit skin glue, string derived from torn canvas edge, acrylic, pigmented egg tempera, cotton twine, beeswax, PVA.

(6) Heidi Brickell, *Mauri rourou rau: he wehenga, he herenga: matawha kātāu*, 2022. Moranti ply, canvas, rabbit skin glue, string derived from torn canvas edge, acrylic, pigmented egg tempera, cotton twine, beeswax, PVA.

(7) Heidi Brickell, *Mauri rourou rau: he wehenga, he herenga: matatoru mauī*, 2022. Moranti ply, canvas, rabbit skin glue, string derived from torn canvas edge, acrylic, pigmented egg tempera, cotton twine, beeswax, PVA.

(8) Heidi Brickell, *Mauri rourou rau: he wehenga, he herenga: matawha mauī*, 2022. Moranti ply, canvas, rabbit skin glue, string derived from torn canvas edge, acrylic, pigmented egg tempera, cotton twine, beeswax, PVA.

(9) Heidi Brickell, *Mauri rourou rau: he ara heke, he ara piki: tahi*, 2022. Peka rākau, cotton twine, beeswax, acrylic, PVA and superglue.

(10) Heidi Brickell, *Mauri rourou rau: he ara heke, he ara piki: rua*, 2022. Peka rākau, cotton twine, beeswax, acrylic, PVA and superglue.

(11) Heidi Brickell, *Mauri rourou rau: he ara heke, he ara piki: toru*, 2022. Peka rākau, cotton twine, beeswax, acrylic, PVA and superglue.

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TE WĀNANGA ARONUI
O TĀMAKI MAKĀU RAU