

TE MĀHĪ



MĀHĪ

16 Jun – 20 Jul 2023

Margaret Aull \ Chris Harvey \ Tessa Harris
Ngaroma Riley \ Hollie Tawhiao \ Tōmairangi Taiepa

MATARIKI



Matarikiriki
 Artist: Margaret Aull
 2023
 Totara
Nau mai e hine!
 Margaret Aull
 2023
 Acrylic on canvas
The Water Twins
 Ngaroma Riley
 2023
 Macrocarpa, acrylic paint



Essay by Hollie Tawhiao
 (Ngāti Tīpa, Pākehā)

With promises of dunking like Jordan, and returns in skyrocketing stocks, we are cheered on by these words – “Just do it” – emblazoned down the leg of our third pair of sweatshop slacks as we sip a Venti mocha latte browsing TradeMe in our activewear on the couch.

The imperious prompt launched Nike into the 90s with a staunch no nonsense attitude. “Just do it” came from the final words of a death row inmate (“Let’s do it”) and was paraphrased for credit purposes to encourage tweens, teens and wish-they-were-still-twenties to pour their hard earned drachma into the company, hoisting it up the capitalistic ladder and securing its foothold in the retail market for the foreseeable future.

This slogan is often used to explain the meaning of “mahia te mahi” which is not an acceptable form of currency.

Mahia te mahi is a grind, it is consistency from the one and the many in the face of both failure and success. It is empowering and it is villainising. Take a quick glance at the comments section of any type of success. Like schmacks for the wackos the naysayers come a-running, twisting words and ears till their vitriol takes purchase. The mana munchers and self-aggrandising hacks that want the glory sans the grind, demanding the in ground hangi served up hot on beautiful colonial era blue willow but ne’er a shovel nor a tea towel in their sight. This is not “mahia te mahi”.

Put simply, it is to DO the work – present tense. It embodies the concept of taking action, being diligent, and putting in the effort required to achieve success, even after multiple “failures”. To put it another way, “if you like it then you should have put an -ing on it”. Its importance

cannot be overstated, it encompasses principles that are valuable in various aspects of life, including personal growth, professional development, and community building.

Mahia te mahi is closely tied to the principle of whakawhanaungatanga, in that you have to build and nurture relationships, contribute positively to your communities and establish meaningful connections. By actively participating in community initiatives, volunteering, and supporting others, and creating a sense of unity and collaboration. Mahia te mahi recog-

nises that everyone has a role to play in making their community thrive and encourages individuals to contribute their skills and efforts towards collective well-being.

As Matariki is the time to reflect, it is integral to acknowledge those that have proverbial and literal soil on their hands as we head into the new year. The workers, the backbones, the action people. Mahia te mahi is this reflection. This collective of artists embodies this kaupapa, we put in the mahi day in and day out, in our practice, communities and work. This show is the manifestation of our dedication to our toi, our people, and ourselves.

Show up, Stay in it, Support, Share, Make, Learn and most importantly do it over and over and over and over and over again.

“Mahia te mahi, hei painga moo te iwi”

Kura o ta Rangi – Hahana

Chris Harvey
2023
Kauri pūtōrino, waxed
cord, magenta corian,
epoxy

Mata lailai

Margaret Aull
2023
MDF, Mother of pearl

Bulking

Hollie Tawhiao
2023
Wood, acrylic,
polyurethane

Cover image:

Kura o ta Rangi – Hahana

Chris Harvey
2023
Carved Totara post, paua
laminated, epoxy-kokowai,
black sand paua on pine
base Kauri pūtōrino,
waxed cord, magenta
corian, epoxy

