

JOURNEY PART 2

Anasaunoa Teofilo

My practice tells the journey of a Samoan girl who is in search of identity, and was inspired by New Zealand artist Judy Millar, British artist Chris Ofili and Aboriginal art. From here I have found my own language, reusing recycled wooden trays from the now closed down Oamaru lolly factory. I picked up the carving for the first time last year and it became my tool that acts as my paintbrushes. The tatau (tattoo) decorative pattern symbolises the most important people I hold close to my heart – five vital motifs that appear in the carvings. The repetitive makings that are carved are an influence from my father's Samoan tattoo. It was the ancestral symbols and linear geometric motifs within the patterns that caught my attention. It's a similar tattoo mark I carry also, as a reminder for whatever situation I encounter in my own personal journey. In Samoan society, family strength is an important foundation.



Figure 1. Anasaunoa Teofilo, *Journey Part 2* (2013), house paint on recycled wooden trays, hot glue gun, carving tools and varnish, 200 × 328 cm.

Journey Part 2 (2013) is a series of abstract paintings. Dark blue was the colour chosen after creating a mini series of carvings using different colours; the blue stood out more effectively because it brought out the glue-dotted markings. *Journey Home* (2013) was a set of three vertical wooden panels in orange designed to complement *Journey*

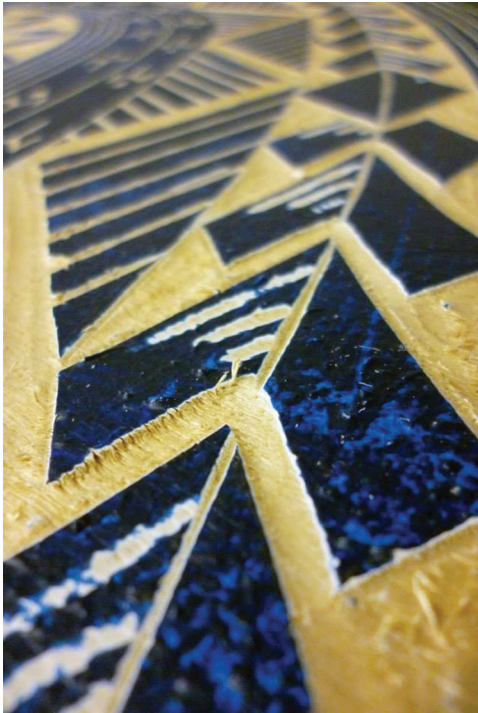


Figure 2. Anasaunoa Teofilo, 2014, work in progress.

Part 2 by using different shades of dark red, orange to yellow. They give out a sense of happiness and positive vibrations in the spaces that are shown through the carving. The dots are widely used conventional symbols, and for many non-Aboriginal people these are what give Central and Western Desert art its distinctive character. Dots may represent many things, but for me my dots signify the journey of my own storytelling evolving around loved ones, the warmth and love of family and friends and the influence they have on me, especially in my walk with the Heavenly Father.

Anasaunoa Teofilo graduated with a BVA in painting from the Dunedin School of Art in 2013. She is currently enrolled in postgraduate studies.