

TŪRUAPŌ ASTRONESIAN 3000

Metiria Stanton Turei



Figure 1. Metiria Turei, *Mahuika Pao*, 2018, from Tūruapō Astronesian 3000 series, digital inkjet print, 290 x 420 mm.

Me aro koe ki te hā o Hineahuone. Mai te tīmatanga, ko Papatūānuku te whaea whenua. Ko Hineahuone te ira tangata tuatahi, he wāhine.

Tīhei Mauri ora!

Pay heed to the dignity of women. From the beginning there was Papatūānuku, the Earth Mother. Hineahuone, the first human, was a woman.

Mahuika, the Atua of fire, is old and blind, and tricked by Māui into giving him almost all of her fire because he wants the power of fire for himself. He leaves her bereft.



Figure 2 .Metiria Turei, *Mahuika Tukaunga*, 2018, from Tūruapō Astronesian 3000 series, digital inkjet print, 820 x 530 mm.



Figure 3. Metiria Turei, *Kurangaituku Whakaora*, 2018, from Tūruapō Astronesian 3000 series, digital inkjet print, 600 x 1272 mm.

Kurangaituku, Atua of small animals and birds of the forest, is befriended by Hatupatu. He kills her animal companions and steals her treasures. He pushes her into the boiling mud pools of Te Arawa after she hunts him down.

Mahuika was cheated and lied to by Māui, her moko. Kurangaituku was deceived and injured by Hatupatu, her beloved. Both Atua return to their home planet, which circles Atutahi.

And the Atua do not forget the hurt they suffered at the hands of the humans they loved, but they recover and do not think of them often.

Māori created the universe. Māori occupy space and time. This work is a spinning of ancient myths into future histories about the violence suffered by women at the hands of men, the hardship in carrying the stories of our tīpuna forward into time and transcendence from revenge to forgiveness.

The Astronesian has crashed on a strange planet circling Atutahi. Crawling from the wreckage, two creatures appear ahead; old, fierce and angry. The two creatures smell the Astronesian and are reminded of old hurts, violence and pain. They remember and seek revenge. They attack.



Figure 4. Metiria Turei, *Astronesian*, 2018, from *Tūruapō Astronesian 3000* series, digital inkjet print, 420 x 420 mm.

We consider the tales of violence and betrayal against these Atua and reimagine what forgiveness and retribution may look like in a new world and in a new time. We can find ourselves and our tipuna in this story.

The Atua finally see the Astronesian for who she really is, manawahine, her moko kauae shining on her face, her hair long. They remember their first purpose in creating whānau and choose forgiveness.



Figure 5. Metiria Turei, *Mahuika Manawaroa*, 2018, from Tūruapō Astronesian 3000 series, digital inkjet print, 820 x 530 mm.

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No Āti Haunui a Pāpārangi, Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa me, Rangitane.

Metiria Turei spent two decades in law and politics, as a member of the New Zealand Parliament and Co-leader of the Green Party Aotearoa New Zealand. She now studies at the Dunedin School of Art, Te Kura Matatini o Otago. She is developing an art practice that uses the design of tāniko as a metaphor for Māori agency and self determination in the present and the future. Her work is primarily in performative textiles, activated on the body and presented in film and photographs.

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Writing: writing is mine alone, while the story of the atua is sourced in Māori history. The italics text sets out the background story and the non-italic text comments on the contemporary theoretical setting.

