

Graduate Women New Zealand Charitable Trust Progress Report

Erana Kaa (Ngāti Pākau, Ngāpuhi)

My provisional enrolment for my PhD in Fine Arts through Massey University College of Creative Arts, commenced in **July** 2019.

From **July to August** I focused on showing at New Zealand Fashion Week in the Miromoda Showcase. From

September to January I solidified my research question, purpose and broadened my

literature and Art Review. I also attended two wānanga weekends in the Hokianga to learn more about my whakapapa and to create a personal foundation for my research.

In **February** I participated in a group exhibition, KuaOHO: WOKE Women Of Knowledge Empowered.

The aim of the exhibition was to facilitate a show that brought a strong, female, indigenous narrative to honour wāhine, within our own respective fields.



My work Tuitui referenced cultural healing.

My tūpuna Kohuru Tewhata was the innovator of unaunahi, a stylistic depiction of waves (Ngaru nui, Ngaru roa, Ngaru Paewhenua) and taniwha scales (Araiteuru, Niniwa, Puhimoanaariki). In Tuitui the unaunahi channel healing energy between wāhine. They stand unified by an ancestral thread, connecting and awakening women to their whakapapa, ātua and mana.

In **March** I attended an Indigenous Art Symposium and Methodology workshops in Sydney. These events offered valuable experiences leading to the reshaping and refinement of my methodology.

My research aims to contribute to the indigenisation of apparel construction, navigating between Māori visual language and fashion.

During isolation I have continued editing and finalising my confirmation report, liaised with supervisors in preparation for confirmation and am currently carrying out and documenting practical experimentation. I am planning to present for confirmation in **May**.

Receiving support during the initial stage of my research has enabled me to make the most of opportunities that I may not have considered. Ngā mihi nui ki te GWI whānau.

