

Maia McDonald

**Artist Curriculum Vitae**

b. 27th March 1983

n. New Zealand Citizen

a. New Plymouth,, Taranaki.

Iwi. Te Ati Āwa, Parihaka.

Hapū. Ngāti Mutunga

**Statement:** “My practice addresses ideas about the human condition and our relationship to the environment. I acknowledge value creation as a primary concern while developing and growing my artistic practice”.

My professional practice is housed primarily in uku (clay), I do however consider myself a cross-disciplinary artist; one who has been exhibiting for the past fifteen years both in Aotearoa and abroad.

I completed my Bachelor of Fine Arts (with honours) at Massey University, Wellington, and in 2017 was awarded a Diploma in Māori Art and Design, having studied under Māori master uku Artist, Wi Taepa. While completing my studies in Porirua, I initiated and was responsible for running the Wellington Clay Collective.

I have exhibited and published work annually since 2006, and had my first solo exhibition in 2015. Artworks have been acquired by Peter McCleavey Gallery, and my work is held in public and private collections including the Wallace Arts Trust, Wellington Museum, Puke Ariki Museum, and more recently the Wellington City Art Collection.

I have been employed within the government and local council, representing my hapū and iwi. There have been many highlights during my career, however, working with H.R.O Helen Clark to promote the creative sector, outsider artists, and prison artists, was a defining moment. So too was working towards the repatriation of the Motunui Epa Panels, now returned and on display at Puke Ariki Museum and Libraries, Taranaki.



**'Hapurānui Whare is Missing'** This artwork has an important political narrative. For further details, see [here](#). Made in 2019. **Image 1:** The artist at the opening of 'Uku Mahi'.



'Ipu Pere' Clay vessel made for 'Uku Mahi - Clay Naughty Clay' 2019.

## Exhibitions - Publications - Research

**2021 - Bedrock, The Physics Room, Christchurch.** A group show with Artists Emerita Baik and Nââwié Tutugoro.

**2020 - Hauhake - Caravannex with Jade Townsend, Objectspace, Auckland.**  
December 01 - 06 2020 A group show.

**2020 - Wairua, Two Waters -Laree Payne Gallery, Hamilton -** November 27 - December 27. A joint exhibition with Sydney based Artist Lottie Consalvo.

**2020 - Whakanoa, at Precinct 35, Wellington -** A solo ceramics exhibition, exploring rest after an intense period of struggle and concentration, in order to regain strength and neutrality.

**2019 - From Here on Out, The Engine Room, in association with Massey University, Wellington -** A group show with the artists Ana Iti, Hana Rekana, Jake Walker and Dave Marshall. The exhibition focused on Artists with connections to Pōneke. The Artists are considered to be leaders in their field and whose practice and research is based in clay.

**2019 - Migrating Cookies and Company, Kreisler Gallery, New Plymouth -** A group show with the artists Bill Beak, Dick Frizzell, Tom Kreisler, Simon Morris, Seraphine Pick, John Reynolds, Sriwhana Spong. July 2019.

**2019 - 'Uku Mahi, Clay, Naughty, Clay', ParrotDog Gallery, Wellington.** Works were purchased by Wellington City Art Collection for display in the new library on Wellington's waterfront. The Mayor of Wellington selected artworks from the show for collection.

**2018 - Potters in Protest, Wellington -** Organised by Carmel Rowden, Abby Cunnane and Heather Hayward, this summer dinner in early 2019 was held in Wellington. Proceeds from this event went to the New Zealand Women's Refuge. All contributing artists were asked to select an item that could be used to eat kai from. I support this kaupapa wholeheartedly!

**2018 - Buy Enjoy, Enjoy Gallery, Wellington -** This group show helped to raise money to support the running of Enjoy Gallery.

**2018\* - 'Let Go of This Ball of Clay', The Same Space Gallery, New Plymouth -** a solo exhibition.

**2018 - 'Taonga Paroa - Taonga Iti', Taranaki.** This show responded to the recent mass stranding of 9 Paraoa (sperm whales) along Ngati Tu's coastline in May 2018. This Wānanga was an ongoing intergenerational opportunity organised by the hapu, where Artists were asked to create small works in reference to the event over the three day period, with all artworks exhibited at Gallery Toi Manaia (19th August - 2nd

September). The artworks I created were a series of small uku toanga, offered to each Paraoa, honoring their life and their passing. The mahi and korero over the wānanga at Waiokura Mārae in Manaia enabled me to make sense of this ecological event and how we can create great opportunities from great loss.

**2018 - 'Works on Paper', Gallery Toi, Manaia** - A group show with the artists Barry Te Whatu, Rangi Kipa, Mako Jones, Bonita Bingham and Kararaina Te Ira.

**2018 - Ceramicus, Academy Galleries, Wellington.** A large group show.

**2018 - Rick Rudd Emerging Practitioner in Clay Award Exhibition, Quartz Museum of Studio Ceramics, Wanganui.**

**2017 - Flux, Wellington Museum.** This was a group show, raising awareness around mental illness.

**2016 - Mould, Precinct 35 Gallery, Wellington.** This was a two person show highlighting the dynamic relationships between jewellery and clay.

**2015\* - 'It's not what you know, it's what you don't know', Enjoy Gallery, Wellington.** My first solo exhibition. Supporting texts by art writer Lily Hacking. Also, I gave a performance as part of the show.

**2014 - Home Grown, Gallery Imparie, 'Taranaki Farm Boys', New Works, New Zealand, Rue de Lancry, Paris, France.** Curated by Stuart Shepherd this was my first international show. My photographs were also showcased at Te Papa during a presentation by Tom di Marias.

**2013/2012 - Research in Europe and Asia.** For two years I was based in Izmir, Turkey, where I had access to a number of museums and archives that were of interest to me regarding the production of metal alloys developed in the region. I also visited historic sites where I documented the Turkish culture and its lesser known art practices. I was employed by a family who owned a number of Museums and had access to their extensive art collection. Their collection included rare drawings by Max Ernst and other well known artists. This was a very profound experience and one that fed my interest in materials and culture.

**2011 - Photographic research in Seoul and Busan, South Korea.** These artworks were submitted and published by [Hue & Cry](#) magazine for their 2011 publication.

**2011 - Just-Ice, The Museum of City and Sea, Wellington.** My sculptural work was exhibited and subsequently purchased for the Museum's permanent collection. This work was directly related to an essay I wrote concerning The Treaty of Waitangi and Māori claims to land in the Wellington CBD.

**2010 - [Juggernaut](#)** - Overall winner of 'The 48-Minute Film Festival 2010' - Our experimental film received *The Judges choice award* and was the overall winner in the festival. Co-created with Mikaere Gardiner. The event was run by The Govett Brewster

Art Gallery, New Plymouth. See [here](#) for the article run by the Taranaki Daily News following the event.

**2010 - 'Craig & Tractor'** Research image, produced as part of Taranaki Farm Boys series.. Printed as 'artifact of the week' in the Taranaki Daily News paper.

**2010 - The Meaning** - Writings put together for Tao Wells. Coinciding with Tao's *Letting Space* project, Wellington. Exploring the idea of the unemployed artist. Intended publication.

**2009 - Hue & Cry Art Journal, Australia and New Zealand** - Published a series of Black and white "Ghost" pinholes. A photographic investigation of my relationship with Newtown, Wellington. I made a matchbox camera and shot all the images over one day.

**2008 - Hey Student, Ngā Taonga Sound and Vision, Wellington.** Group show.

**2008 - Hold** - Project Assistant for Dr. David Cross. Massey University. Litmus Initiative.

**2008 - Stand, Wellington.** Group exhibition held at Shed 11 and curated by Gavin Hipkins. Showcasing Installation and video artworks by emerging artists..

**2008 - Blow Festival** - Massey University Graduating exhibition, Wellington.

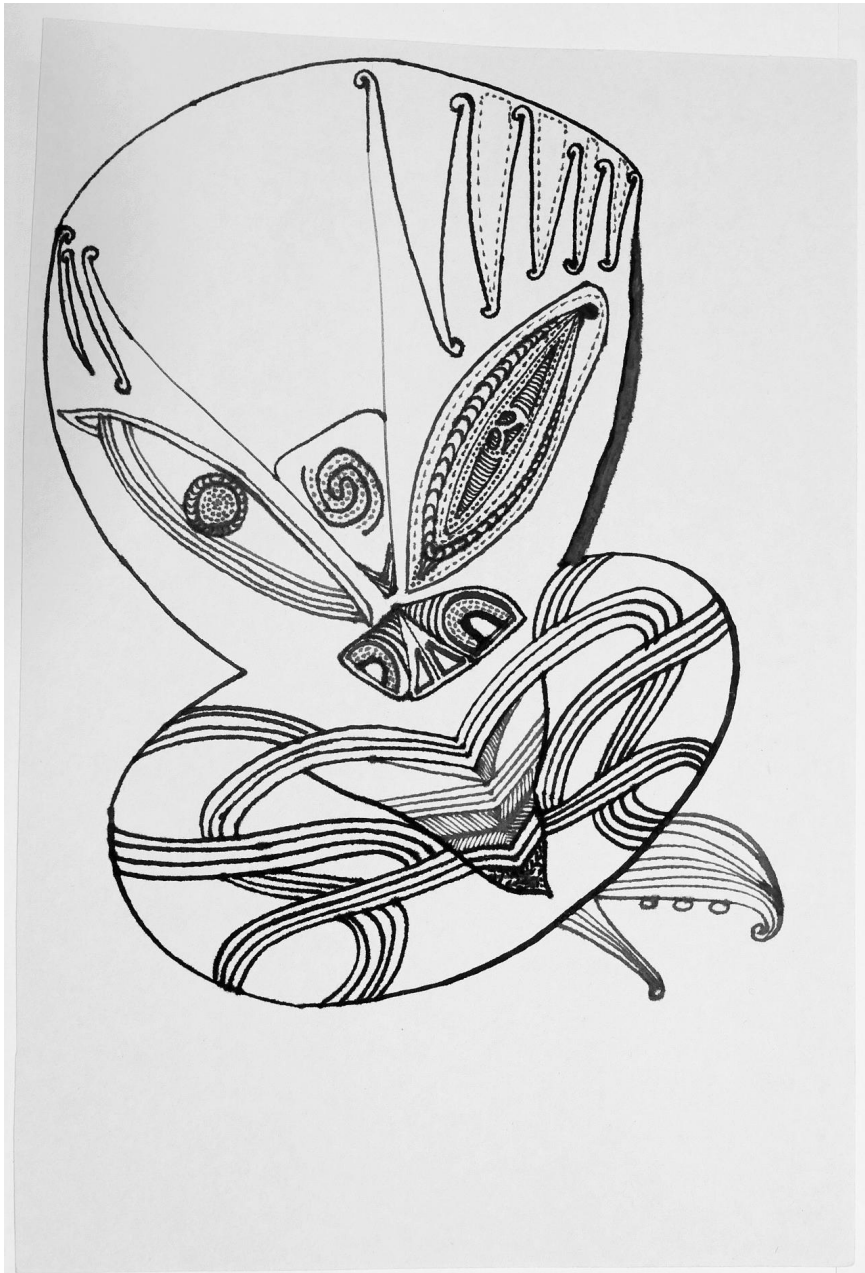
**2008 - James Wallace Trust Gallery - Group Show in Photography, Painting, Video and Installation, Auckland.**

**2008 - The 3rd Artist's Film Festival 2008.** This was a group show, held at the Ngā Taonga Sound and Vision, Pelorus Trust Media Gallery, Wellington. Artists included: Kah Bee Chow, Johannes Contag, Campbell Farquhar, Sandy Gibbs, Fiona Gilmore, Eve Gordon/Sam Hamilton, Murray Hewitt, Colin Hodson, Bronwyn Holloway-Smith, Andrea Low, Maia McDonald, Jennifer Mason, Clare Noonan, Rachel O'Neill, James Oram, Campbell Patterson, Kim Pieters, Martyn Reynolds, Johanna Sanders, Marnie Slater, Nathan Thompson, Darryl Walker, Peter Wareing, Tao Wells, Fats White, Giles Whitaker, Erica van Zon. and was curated by Paula Booker. This Film Festival toured The Physics Room, The Govett Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth and The Wellington Film Archive also.

**2007- Outsider - In, Bowen House, Wellington.** In collaboration with Stuart Shepherd I managed the installation of this group show, attended by Nightline, and opened by H.R.O Helen Clark.

**2006 - Four Rooms, Massey University, Wellington.** A group show.

**2006 - Photo Chop!, Thistle Hall, Wellington.** A group show.



Above: 100 Clay pots. In transit to The Engine Room in association with Massey University, 2019. Left: Meditations on Drawing. Works on paper that assist my painting practice.

## Work History

**Role: Curator of Indigenous Art at Koorie Heritage Trust 2020** - Curating exhibitions and managing the implementation of exhibitions for current Koorie artists. The trust is based in Federation square in Melbourne.

**Role: Gallery Manager at Kreisler Gallery 2019** - Promoting events, managing events, social media, management of artworks, website design and curating exhibitions.

**Role: Visitor Services, 2018 - 2019, Puke Ariki Museum, Govett Brewster/Len Lye Art Gallery, New Plymouth.** Greeting guests and visitors to the Museum, providing information about the current exhibits on display. Customer service and technical assistance with kinetic sculptures and artworks. Working effectively within a close team environment. Working with other teams inside of Puke Ariki and NPDC.

**Role: Video Editor, 2017, Jet Productions, Wellington.** Completing tasks to deadline for The Ministry of Fisheries NZ. Editing an extensive batch of clips requiring sensitive and specific handling, to client's specification. Working with computer software and databases created by the client. Managing spreadsheets and workflow, while working effectively within a close team environment.

**Role: Lead Graphic Designer, 2017, Midwaste Magazine USA.** All design work carried out using Indesign and Photoshop. My design portfolio can be seen [here](#).

**Role: Lead Designer, 2015, Freerange Press. Feminism And Technology Worlds.** All files managed using online platforms such as We Transfer, Skype, Google Docs, Dropbox, Tiny PNG. Working in InDesign and Photoshop to produce a book that can be downloaded for free [here](#).

**Role: Simon Starling Catalogue Design, 2014, City Gallery Wellington.** Using Indesign to produce a catalogue for print only. Short run.

**Role: Manager & Venue Coordinator, Graphic Design and Photography, 2013 - 2016, City Gallery Wellington.** Managing 22 staff members on a daily basis while keeping up to date with administrative duties. Onsite advanced First-Aider, Earthquake and Fire Safety Warden (This is still current.) Producing induction materials, with current public programs, open-late events and seasonal exhibitions. Weekly banking, managing the gift store. Facilitating events, including TEDx, Agile Welly and Massey University Symposiums. Coordinating the on-site AV technician and catering companies. Greeting guests and visitors to the gallery, providing information about the venues available and the exhibitions currently on display. Assisting my manager with hiring and training new staff members. I was called on to photograph events and design induction materials and manage online content for the Gallery's website.

**Role: Lead Graphic Design, 2011, Christchurch.** All content management. Design for print. The result of which was the award winning 'Songs for Christchurch.' That helped

raise over \$10,000 to aid in the support of post earthquake Christchurch rebuild and regeneration. See the album cover design [here](#).

## Teaching Experience

**Teacher aid.** Working alongside children with severe Autism. Motivating and guiding children using art therapy, severe non-verbal impairment training. While maintaining patience and methodical learning structures. This style would be reflected in my current tutoring abilities.

**Private ESOL Tutor in Izmir, Turkey.** Tutoring two young Turkish children in their home. Weekly lesson planning and ESOL related physical activities, where my schedule had to be robust and flexible. To enable the family's hectic travel schedule and business arrangements.

**English Teacher, Busan, South Korea.** Teaching conversational English full time. Lesson planning for ten hours each week Outdoor activities, English language games tutoring 3 year olds in the morning and 11 year olds in the evening. Writing reports and student feedback cards.

**Management experience. Manager & Venue/Events Coordinator.** Host Services Supervisor, for Wellington Museums Trust, City Gallery Wellington. I managed 22 floor staff and was responsible for rosters banking and hiring new staff members.

## Education

2018 - Glaze Technology. *Otago Polytechnic* (Currently studying.)

2017 - Māori Art and Design Diploma, specializing in Clay. *Te Wānanga o Aotearoa*.

2014 - Small Business Growth and Development Certificate. *Te Wānanga o Aotearoa*.

2014 - Be Accessible Training/Accessibility in The Workplace Certificate.

2013 - Te Ara Reo Māori, Year One. *Te Wānanga o Aotearoa*.

2012 - Certificate in Graphic & Web Design. *Bowerman School of Design Wellington*.

2010 - Certificate in Money Management. *Te Wānanga o Aotearoa*.

2009 - Jewellery Design. *Whitireia Polytechnic*.

2008 - BFA, Photographic Media and Design Major. Honors. *Massey University Wellington*.

2000 - A Bursary. Scholarships in Art and Design. *New Plymouth Girls High School*.