

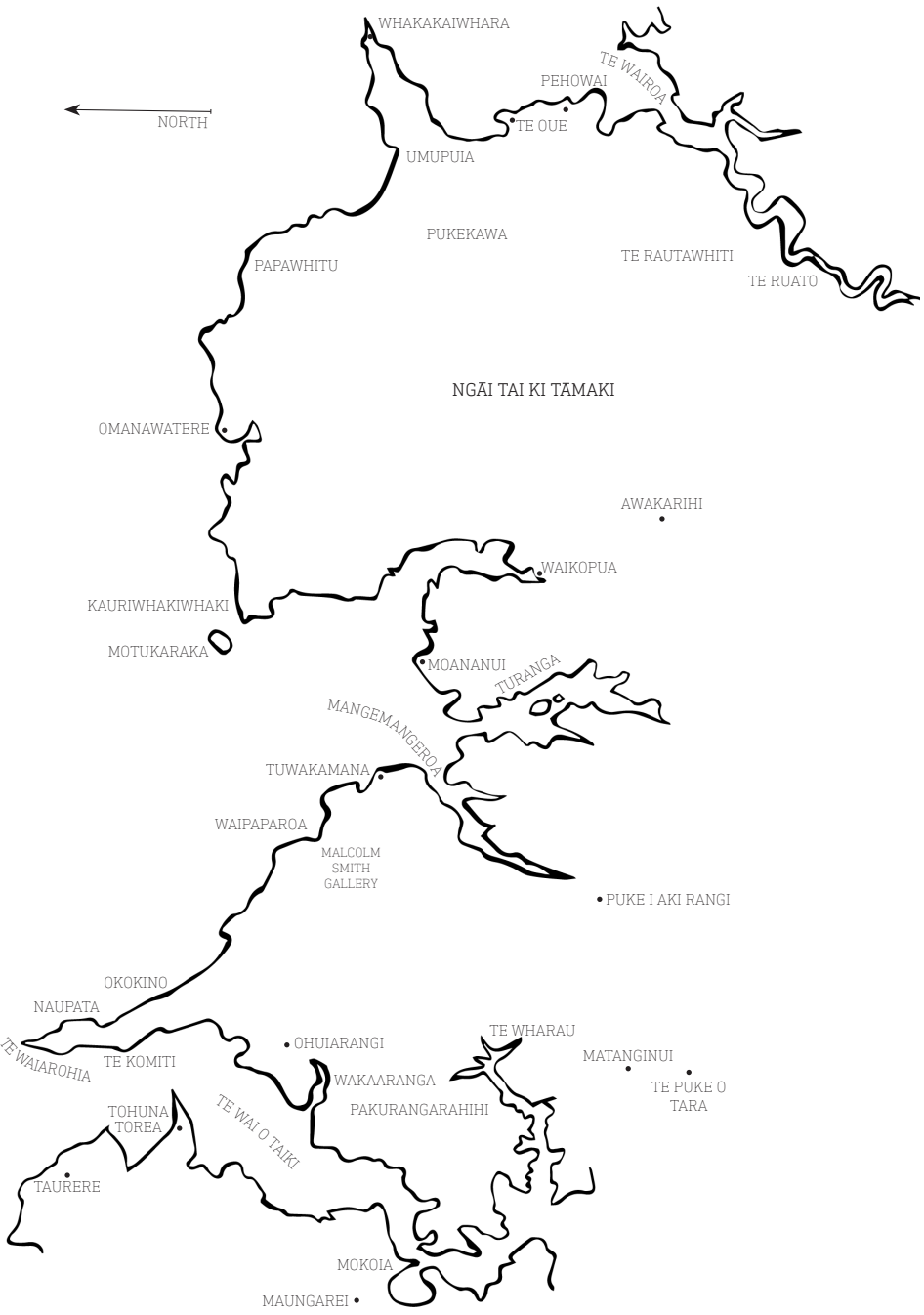
The background features a large-scale abstract artwork. It is composed of various textures and colors, including vibrant reds, deep blacks, and muted greys. The composition is divided into several sections by diagonal lines, creating a sense of movement and depth. The overall effect is one of raw, organic energy.

BENJAMIN WORK:  
WHENUA FONUA 'ENUA

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UXBRIDGE  
**MALCOLM  
SMITH  
GALLERY**

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← NORTH

WHAKAKAIWHARA

PEHOWAI

TE WAIROA

TE OUE

UMUPUIA

PUKEKAWA

TE RAUTAWHITI

TE RUATO

PAPAWHITU

NGĀI TAI KI TAMAKI

OMANAWATERE

AWAKARIHI

KAUARIWHAKIWHAKI

WAIKOPUA

MOTUKARAKA

MOANANUI

TUJANGA

MANGEMANGEROA

TUWAKAMANA

WAIPAPAROA

MALCOLM SMITH GALLERY

• PUKE I AKI RANGI

OKOKINO

NAUPATA

TE WAIAROHIA

TE KOMITI

• OHUIARANGI

TE WHARAU

MATANGINUI

TE PUKE O TARA

TOHUNA TOREA

WAKAARANGA

PAKURANGARAHIMI

TAURERE

TE WAI O TAUKI

MOKOIA

MAUNGAREI •

Early Polynesian navigators gave names to the places they encountered as a reminder of the spiritual threshold between creation and reality. This was because they regarded the ideas of geographic and spiritual origin as mutually similar.

*Whenua Fonua 'Eua* explores the significance of name and place and the importance of these indicators that connect us to our past and highlight the characteristics of our present. Through new paintings and companion publication in collaboration with Brendan Kitto, the exhibition draws the viewer into a conversation about the way in which history is written onto a landscape, as people remember and retell stories of what has taken place and imagine what could be.

Benjamin Work is an Auckland-based visual artist of Tongan (Tu'anekeviale) and Scottish (Shetlands) heritage. Raised in the Eastern suburbs of the greater Auckland area with a solid grounding in aerosol art, his initial creative output centred around sub/pop cultures that emerged from North America.

Since then, Benjamin has developed a bold visual language based on kupesi (patterns) as a result of viewing rare Tongan artefacts contained in European museums namely Tongan war clubs which carry an elegant and complex semiotic language. His diverse practice reflects the 'here and now' and situates it in a very contemporary Auckland context.



Image: Brendan Kitto, 2017



*Puke I Aki Rangi, 2017*  
600mm x 400mm  
Acrylic on canvas



*Te Wai O Taiki, 2017*  
600mm x 400mm  
Acrylic on canvas



*Mangemangeroa, 2017*  
600mm x 400mm  
Acrylic on canvas



*Maungarei, 2017*  
600mm x 400mm  
Acrylic on canvas



*Pakurangarahihi, 2017*  
600mm x 400mm  
Acrylic on canvas

RIGHT TOP  
*From Motutapu  
proceed with  
caution, 2017*  
1300mm x 1300mm  
Acrylic on canvas

RIGHT BOTTOM  
*Mata'aho, 2017*  
1300mm x 1300mm  
Acrylic on canvas



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Benjamin Work: Whenua Fonua  
'Ehua, 6 November to 2 December  
2017.

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