

Kauri Waihoea

Artist of Miaowzer Art

Biography

Kauri (they/them) is a multidisciplinary artist, queer, non-binary, and tangata whenua of Aotearoa. Born in Ōtautahi in '96 they began drawing at 3yrs old and never stopped. They also loved to write short stories as a kid with sci-fi themes and rewrote the entire Goldilocks fairytale at age 4. They loved fairy tales, and were always escaping into their magical imagination, heads in the clouds and far away on their own planet. They loved the natural world, space, flora, fauna, trees and bugs. These early themes have matured into a unique creative style and a constantly growing and shifting body of work.

The evolution of Planet Miaowzer was an expression for their inner child, with the use of bright pastel colours, cosmic themes and surreal landscapes of both the natural world and of the mind. Kauri's paintings explore mental health, identity and relationship to the planet.

Their latest works titled "Indigikares" explore Maori identity and the symbiotic connection to the environment, thinking about anthropocene grief in the times of climate crisis and imagining an indigenous future where we coexist and heal with nature.

Experience

Exhibition collaborations:

- **Invercargill City Gallery Student Exhibition 2014**
Student end of year exhibition I showcased some sculptural pieces from pottery training. My theme was animal skulls, and how the natural earth grows back from death. Imagine skull sculptures with moss and vines growing up through them.
- **Vic Uni Feminist Club Art Exhibition Wellington 2017**
An exhibition fundraiser for women's refuge, I exhibited 4 illustration pieces and sold all 40 prints available for the fundraiser. The themes of these drawings were animals, flora, and bones with cosmic elements.
- **SWOA Exhibition, Wellington Old Museum Gallery 2019**
This exhibition was a collection of 18 artists' works shown over a 4 week period. I presented 3 acrylic paintings with the theme of sensuality and sexual self expression. I like combining sensuality with the natural world, imagining bodies, bright colours, plant life and fruit.

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Skills

Multi disciplinary artist. Skills in painting, illustrating, photography and editing, surreal themes. Community building and networking, gallery events, exhibition organising and coordinating.

Exhibition collaborations:

- **Ahua Collective exhibition, Mercury Plaza Gallery Auckland 2021**

This exhibition was our first showcase of independent works by 10 artists who are involved in the collective. The theme was an expression of our identities as queer poc artists. I exhibited 3 paintings, with the themes of outer space, surreal pastel landscapes, and being takatāpui with the spiritual guidance of ancestral deities and taniwha.

Education

- **Southern Institute of Technology (SIT) Invercargill 2013-2014**
Certificate in Applied Media Arts

This course allowed me to explore a wide range of creative mediums including sculpture, pottery, painting, book making, animation, photography, printmaking, digital painting, life drawing etc.

Organising and setting up galleries was very enjoyable and taught me skills that I have put into practice many times over the years. I participated in public events as well as research projects involving data collection from the public and collation into reports. I also sat on the joint arts committee that planned gallery events, including catering and setting up gallery openings.

- **Massey University Wellington 2016**
Creative Media Production BCMP

Skills I explored during this course included scripted film and video production, audio and sound design, computer animation, game technologies and mechanics, storytelling, comic design and media studies.

- **Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangi Auckland 2021**
Kai Oranga, Food Sovereignty and Sustainability

I studied māori permaculture and learned how to grow maara kai through the knowledge and wisdom of our ancestors. This involved soil science, astrology, moon phases and companion planting. We also learned how to identify and harvest rongoā, māori medicine. My fascination with plant science and nature continues to influence my artwork. This course deepened my connection to the natural world and my sense of belonging as an indigenous being with the responsibility of kaitiakitanga.

Projects

• Sensory Dispensary 2018

Sensory Dispensary is an Art camp installation that appears at festival spaces annually. I co-founded this project with a small handful of creatives. Sensory Dispensary is heavily influenced by Meow Wolf that began as a co-op DIY in Santa Fe, New Mexico. It is a fully immersive art experience that focuses on the 5 Human senses of Taste, Smell Vision hearing and touch. We also explored the 6th sense through a Virtual Reality element that challenged peoples physical body awareness in the space.

• Jam For Justice Wellington 2020

Jam for Justice was a fundraiser art project I started with a friend. It was prompted by racial injustices that happen as a result of our broken systems and systemic white supremacy. We wanted to raise funds to help some of those affected. We organised a platform and event for local Bipoc artists of all practices, dancers, painters, performing artists to come together and share their talents and raise money together.

During the pandemic and lockdown complications our covid contingency plan meant compromising an in person event and making it an online event instead and it worked out successfully. We raised \$900 with 33 supporters on our fundraiser page through Fundly.

Instagram: jam4justice_aotearoa

• Āhua Collective 2021

Āhua Collective is a promotional art project for QTBIPOC artists in Aotearoa. I am 1 of 10 artist participants. We have a website Ahua.nz which promotes our artist profiles, and other local events and articles that are relevant to our intentions of decolonising the art world.

Āhua has had 2 critically acclaimed exhibitions in Auckland so far and has been featured in several media articles published by Stuff and the Pantograph Punch for example.

Current Projects

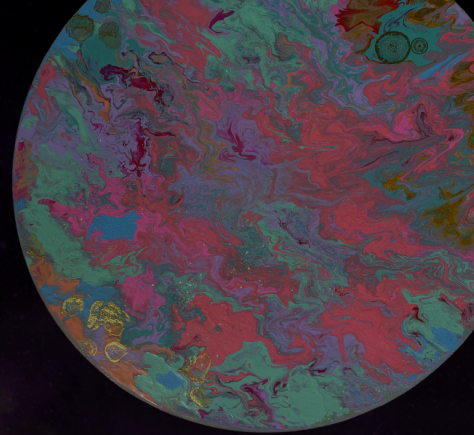
● Takatāpui Artist Collective 2022

This years project is aiming to build community based in Whanganui a Tara for the numerous māori queer artists who reside here. We want to be able to nurture and empower each other on our journeys of reclaiming Māori identity in a safe queer space. We are currently building and designing art collaborations, projects, exhibitions and workshops. Exploring both traditional art practices and modern māori art. We have painters, photographers, poets, journalists, weavers, musicians, sculptures, jewellers etc.. with a facebook community page with 40 members to connect and spread ideas.

● Utu ā Matimati 2022

Art Magazine

In collaboration with our Takatāpui collective we want to create a magazine series to showcase our artists mahi toi through a medium that is tangible, collectable and full of knowledge. This taonga will be comprised of Māori stories, experiences, artworks, poems, photographs, Aunty's recipes and much more.



Planetary Glitches 2020



Indigikares 2022