

Kaiako Māori *Whāia te Taniwha*

Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetū seeks a kaiako Māori who can develop and deliver high-quality, meaningful education programmes at the Gallery. Primarily for kura kaupapa Māori and schools with bi-lingual provision, they will also work with other interested schools where possible.

This is a short-term role to support the development and delivery of programmes alongside the exhibition *Whāia te Taniwha*. Dates for delivery are 6 October – 5 December 2025 (9 weeks). A week of planning time would also be covered, prior to 6 October, at a time that suits the individual kaiako.

The kaiako Māori will work within the Learning and Audience Engagement team, the pouarataki curator Māori and with colleagues across the organisation to maintain a high-quality learning programme for Gallery education visitors.

The successful candidate will be a fluent speaker of te reo Māori with experience teaching in immersion or bi-lingual settings. They will have a values-driven practice that prioritises manaakitaka, auahataka and kaitiakitaka and a sound understanding of tikaka Māori.

The kaiako will have experience teaching the visual arts and bring energy and motivation to this special role. They will also have excellent interpersonal skills and enjoy working in a team environment.

Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetū is in the takiwā of Ngāi Tūāhuriri. We value this relationship and consider the aspirations of mana whenua in the development of our education programmes.

Applications should include a curriculum vitae and referee details.



Whāia te Taniwha

Through contemporary and customary Māori art and literature, this exhibition will explore the enduring relevance of taniwha in Aotearoa and ask how taniwha narratives might help us to understand and navigate current conflicts and challenges.

In te ao Māori we have a rich history of pūrākau that explain how taniwha are capable of being kaitiaki, tūpuna, tohu, atua and tipua who have left their marks upon the landscape of Aotearoa. Through the ongoing process of colonisation, however, many of these pūrākau have been negatively impacted by incorrect recording, land loss, and the loss of te reo Māori. With this history in mind, the artists in *Whāia te Taniwha* will celebrate mātauraka Māori, bringing together old and new ways of understanding 'who' rather than 'what' are taniwha.

Key themes within the exhibition:

- The playful, shapeshifting nature of taniwha
- Kaitiakitaka
- Taniwha and the creation, changing, or movement of land
- Taniwha as tohu, wero or warning
- Taniwha in relation to response or adaptation to climate change
- Taniwha/human relationships



The Programme

Our education programmes are generally delivered within the following parameters, but there is flexibility should the person in this role want to do things differently.

All of our programmes are informed by our exhibition programmes and underpinned by the values and objectives of the NZ Curriculum and Te Marautanga o Aotearoa.

- Lessons are generally 90 minutes, but this is flexible should more time be needed.
- Two lessons are taught a day, one in the morning and one in the afternoon.
- A hands-on art-making activity in the classroom results in something for tamariki to take home.
- Classroom kaiako and parent helpers are present during the lesson.
- Normally, all age groups are invited to engage with our education programmes. However, given the short time frame of this role, and the work required to develop a programme that is accessible for all age groups, we would suggest choosing a specific age group to target with this programme.

For more information contact schools@christchurchartgallery.org.nz.

TOP: Lessons in the classroom.
BELOW: Lesson held in the gallery, with Michael Tuffery's
Povi Christkeke 1999. Mixed media. Collection of Christchurch
Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetū, purchased 1999

