

TE PAPA
OUR PLACE



He kupu toi, He toi kupu

The power of kupu/words found in
the National Art Collection at Te Papa



About this whānau activity booklet

LARGE

The National Art Collection cared for at Te Papa is

and for this activity booklet we have chosen to look at a few of these

amazing **mahitoi artworks** that use **LETTERS,**
Words + kupu in powerful and creative ways.

In this **pukapuka ngohe activity booklet** you will get to play, draw, problem solve, and think creatively. **Kia auaha! Be creative** with words and art.



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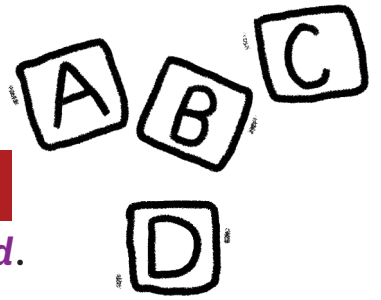


What are letters?

He aha nga pūāhua?



Letters or pū are shapes  or forms  that we learn to see as symbols of **oro sound**.
These help us to communicate in lots of ways.
example: A = ahh B = bih



★ Can you say each one of these pū letters as an oro sound first?

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

★ Now can you say the ingoa name of each letter?

When we put those letters together into groups that we can read together.
We call those **words** or **kupu** (just like you are doing now)



Did you know?

The English language alphabet has **26 letters** – you can see it on the top half of this page.

But letters are also used all over the world to communicate languages including **te reo Māori** the Māori language.

The Māori alphabet has 15 'letters' this includes two **digraphs** (you will see them underlined below).

A digraph is where two letters combine to make a unique **single** sound.

★ Say each one of these letters as an oro sound:

A E I O U

H K M N P R T W

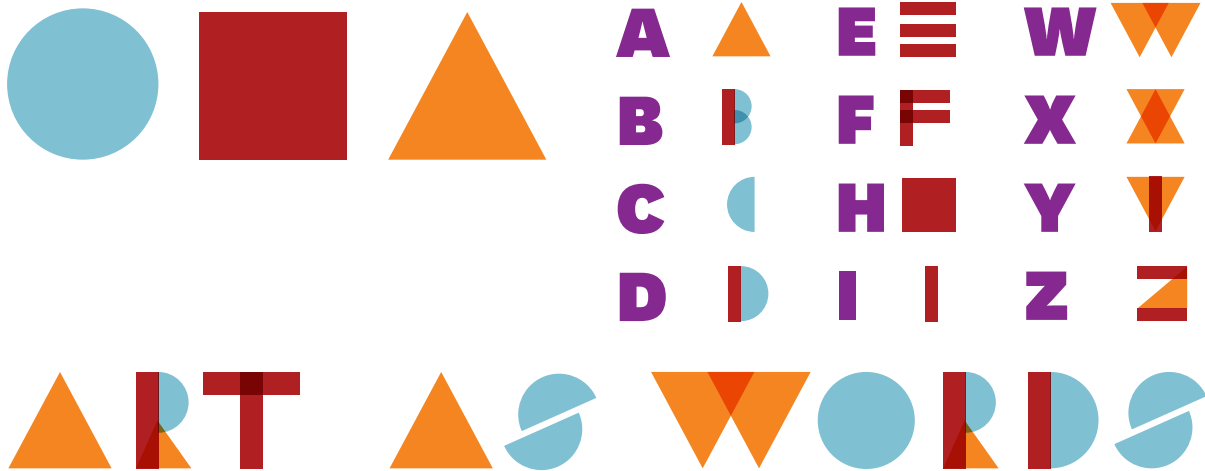
NG WH

this one is an f sound

Shapes as letters and sounds

Ngā āhua hei pū hei oro

For example, with these three basic shapes you can see and read letters.



★ What does this say?

Words can be fun and help us see or feel things when we read.
 Words can be names, actions, or describe things and they do lots, lots more.
 Look at these special words and pictures. Look how they connect sound and action together. These words are called 'Onomatopoeia'.

★ Say them out loud. What do they sound like to you?
 Ask someone else to say them.



Onomatopoeia "oh-no-mat-oh-pay-ah" or **Kupu oroite** are words that imitate, resemble, or suggest the sound they are spelling.

ArtWords: Font

A 'font' is when a whole alphabet is designed in one style. They sometimes add to what the writing is about. They can be fun, serious, or just easier to read.

Here is a **momotuhi font** that was created by a Sāmoan New Zealand designer, Joseph Churchwood.

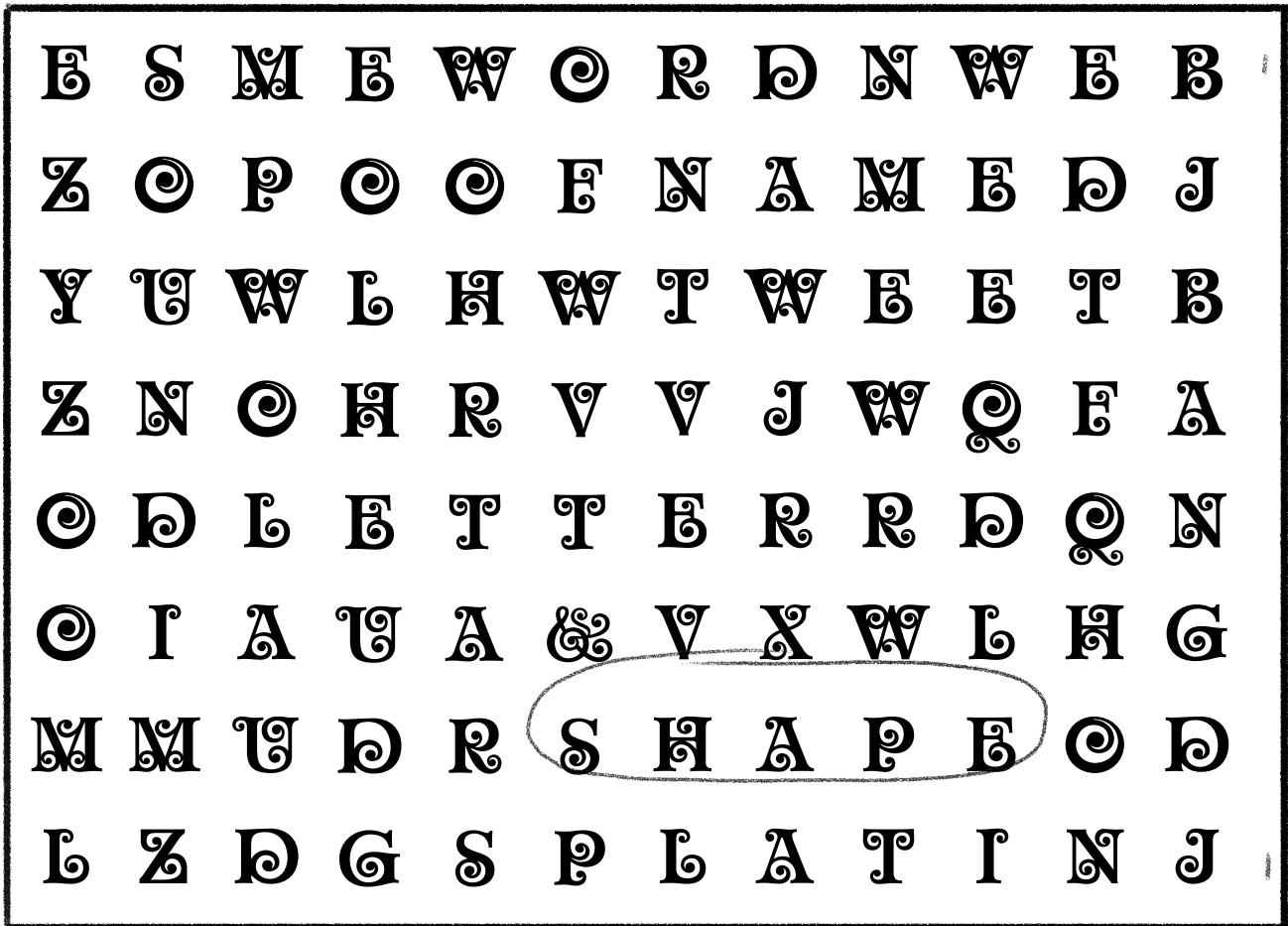


This one is called 'Churchwood Maori 1983', and when Te Papa was being built, it was suggested as a possible 'Te Papa font'.

★ Can you find all of these Kupu words hidden within the Churchwood font?

Remember the basic shapes of letters hidden amongst the koru forms.

Words are hidden → and ↓

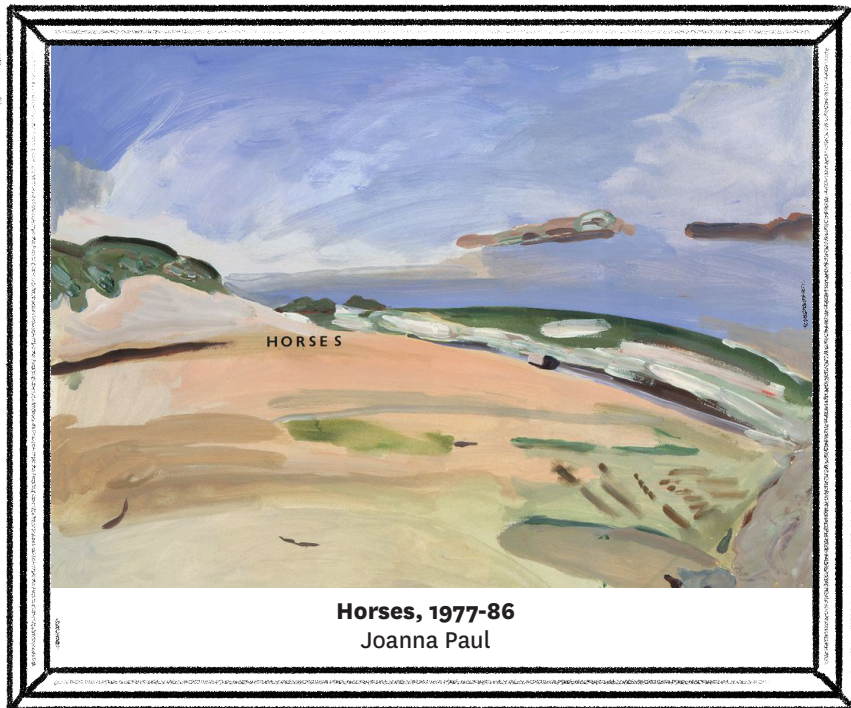


ZOOM SPLAT POOF TWEET
BANG WORD LETTER SOUND

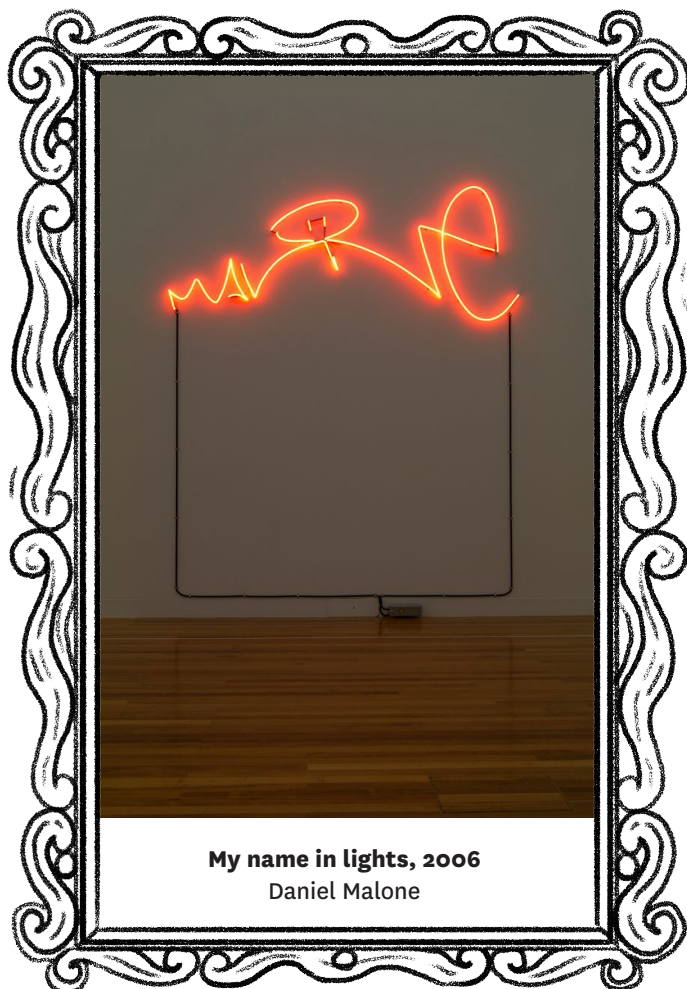
ArtWords: Tākaro Play

Kupu tākaro: Word play

These two artworks from the Te Papa collection use words in creative and playful ways.



The use of the word 'horses' in this watercolour helps disrupt the painted picture and it makes us imagine an actual horse running on the landscape.



This artwork by Malone plays upon the title of the work which is literally 'his name' in lights, and also relates to the saying about being a celebrity which is: "seeing my name in lights".



It can be read two ways if you look closely - can you see?

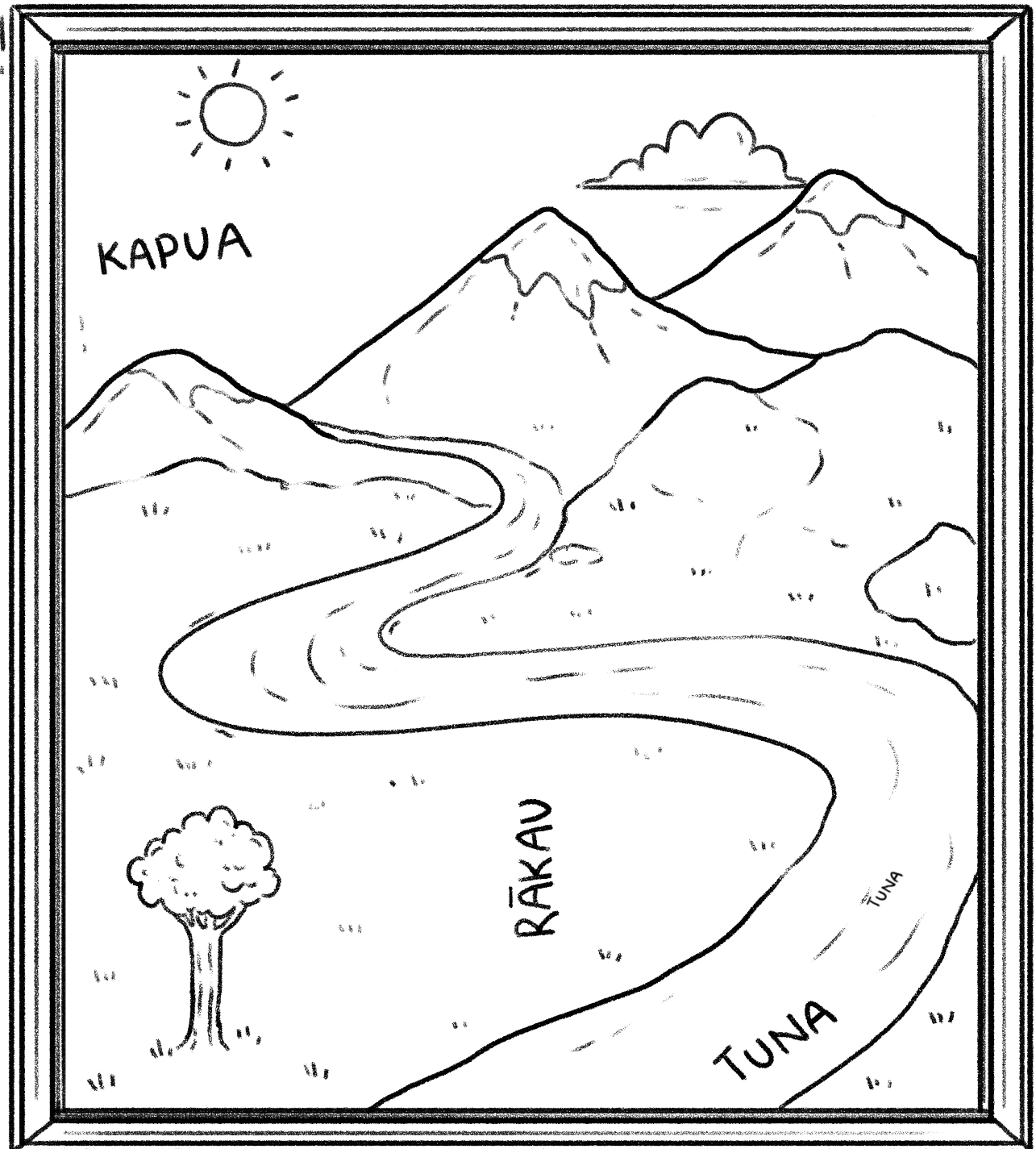
'MALONE' - the artists last name
'MY NAME' - the title of the work

ArtWords: Tākaro Play



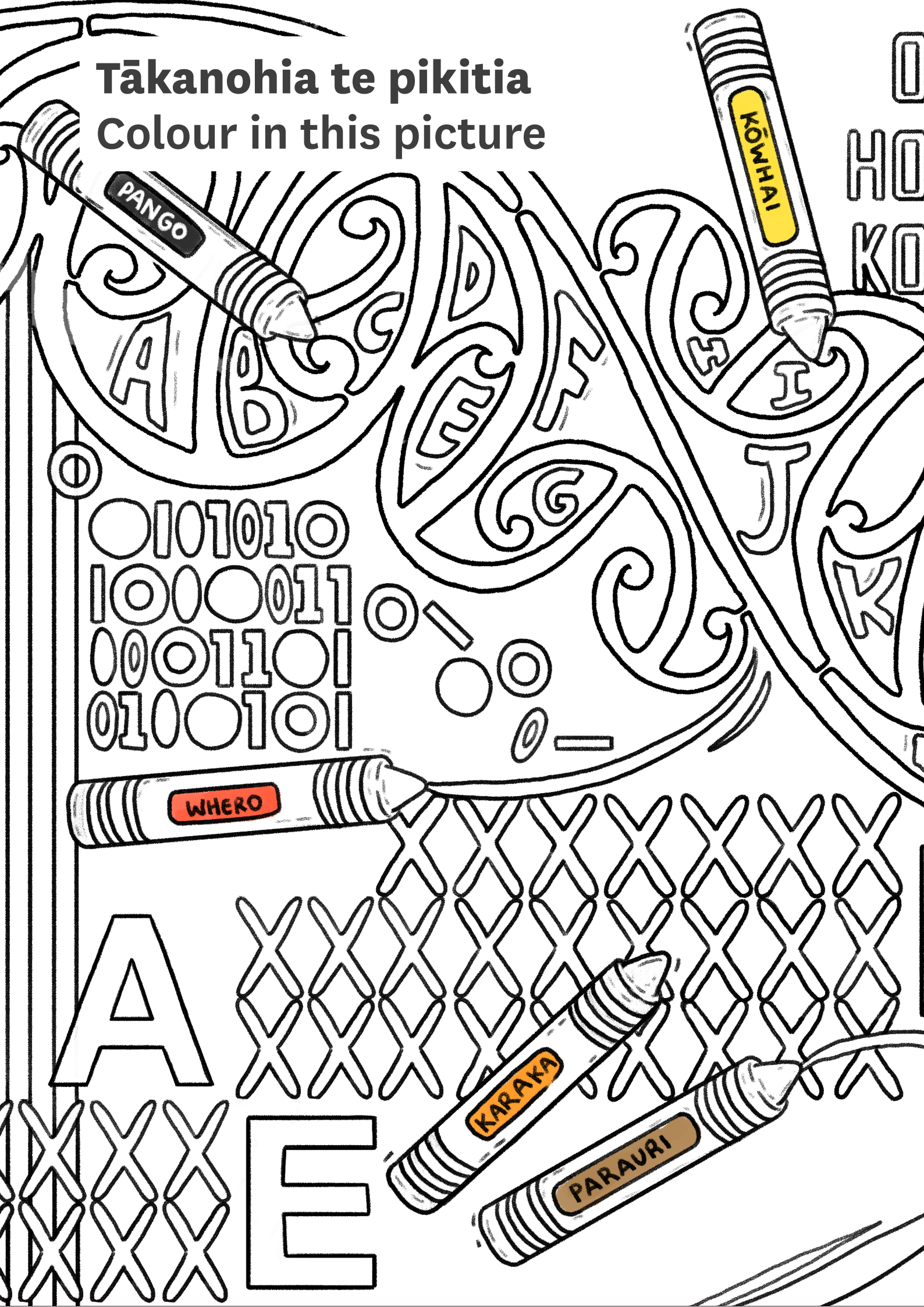
Add words to this picture to be 'things' you want to see in the landscape. Use words from the list below or come up with your own words.

BIRD WORM SHEEP COW BUSH FLOWER
MANU HORSE LIZARD RĀKAU RAIN HOIHŌ



Don't forget to put yourself in the picture by using your **ingoa name**.

Tākanohia te pikitia
Colour in this picture



PANGO

KŌMHAI

WHERO

KARAKA

PARAURI

0101010
1000011
0001101
0100101

O
HO
KO

A

E

RO

TO

WO

PO

NGU

WHO

NO

A

KA

MA

NA

PA

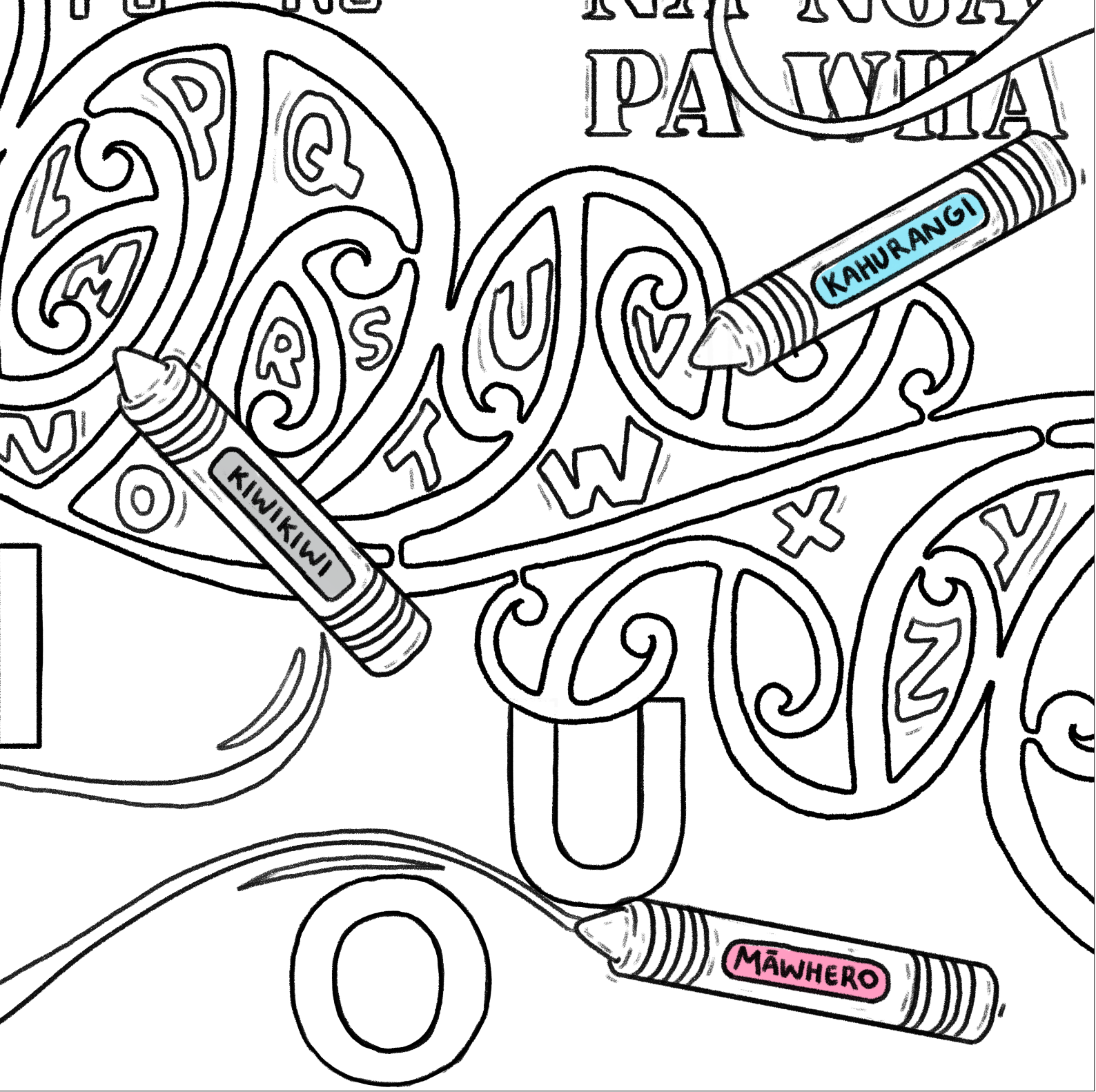
H

HA

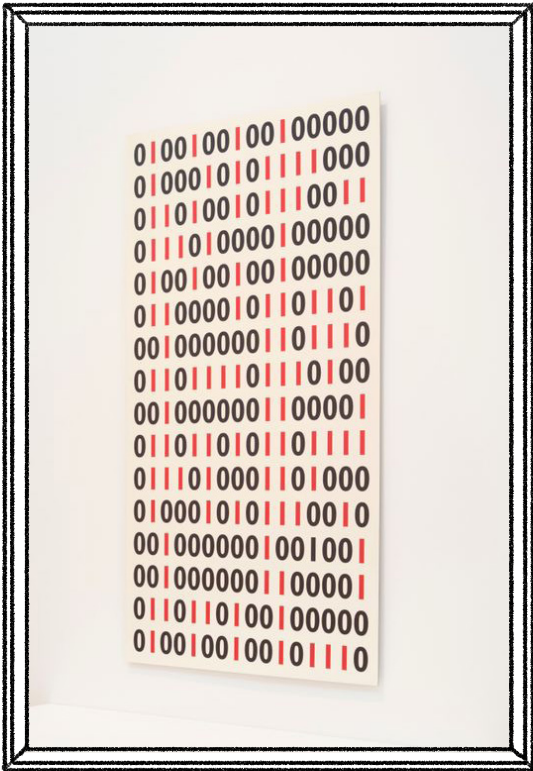
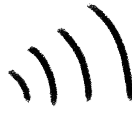
WA

NGA

WHA



ToiKupu: CODE



Language is a code that we learn to read and make meaning of. Meaning is always dependant on **who** is reading.

Binary code is a language used in this artwork by Peter Robinson.

This code only has the numbers 0 and 1 in it.

0 = off and **1** = on

This is the language that computers read to work and create everything we see and do on a computer.

I exist I am not another I am, 2001
Peter Robinson

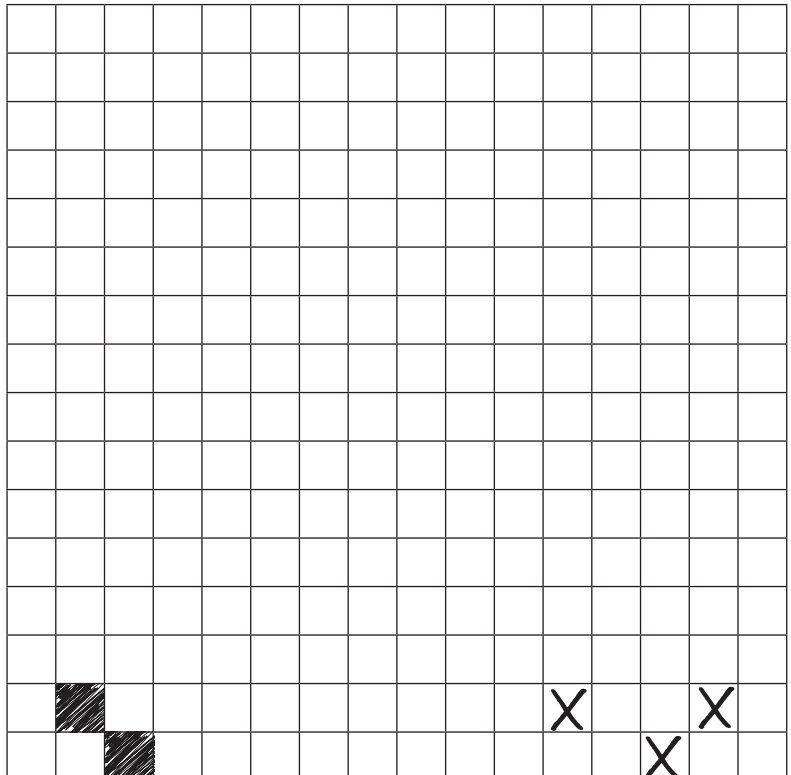
The binary code written in this artwork is a 'virus code'.

This 'virus code' would destroy all the information on the computer leaving it with nothing.

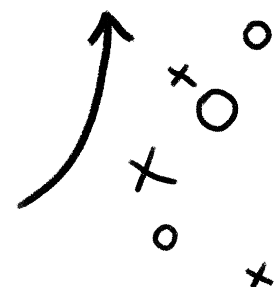
Coded messages and meaning in art reminds us of the different views people have.

The **10** in the code can also be read in Māori as **lo-matua-kore** - 'lo the parentless one' from *Te Kore: The time of 'nothingness'* but unlimited energy and potential.

The '**nothingness**' referenced is an important concept in te ao Māori (a Māori world view).



★ Fill in these empty squares like pixels from a computer or like a tukutuku pattern.



ToiKupu: whakaako

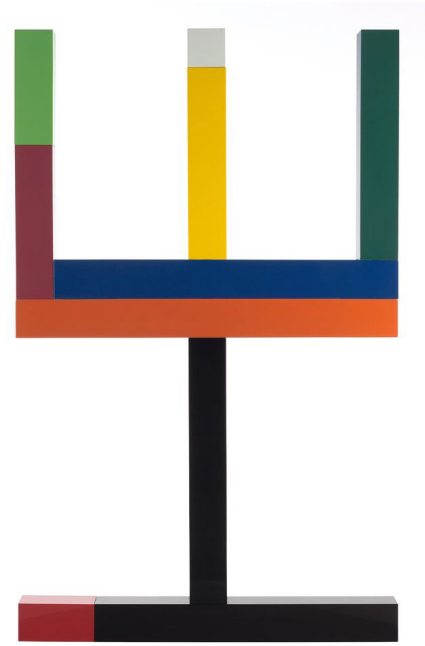
Michael Parekowhai's sculpture *Atarangi* (1990) uses 10 different coloured and sized block forms that look like large Cuisenaire rods.

These 10 **rākau rods** have been used in the **whakaako teaching** of te reo Māori known as the 'Te Ataarangi method' – a community-based way of learning that helped to revitalise learning the language.

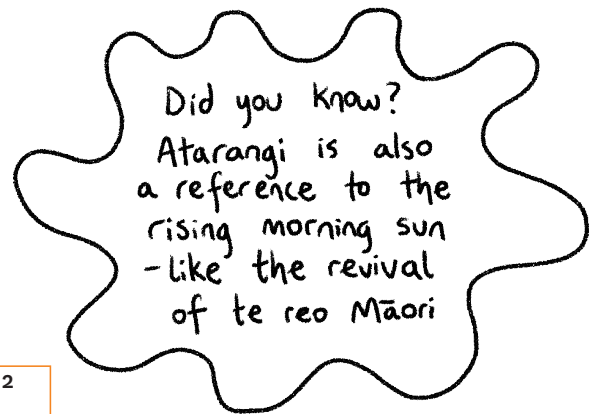
They might look familiar to you too, as they are also used in math in schools.

Te Ataarangi was modelled on maths educator Caleb Gattegno's Cuisenaire rod method but was interwoven with **tikanga Māori customs/protocols/methods**.

The sculptural form also references letters and has mixed readings. When you view the artwork sideways you can either read: **'HE' in English, or 'HE' in Māori**.



Atarangi, 1990
Michael Parekowhai



Te reo Māori crossword

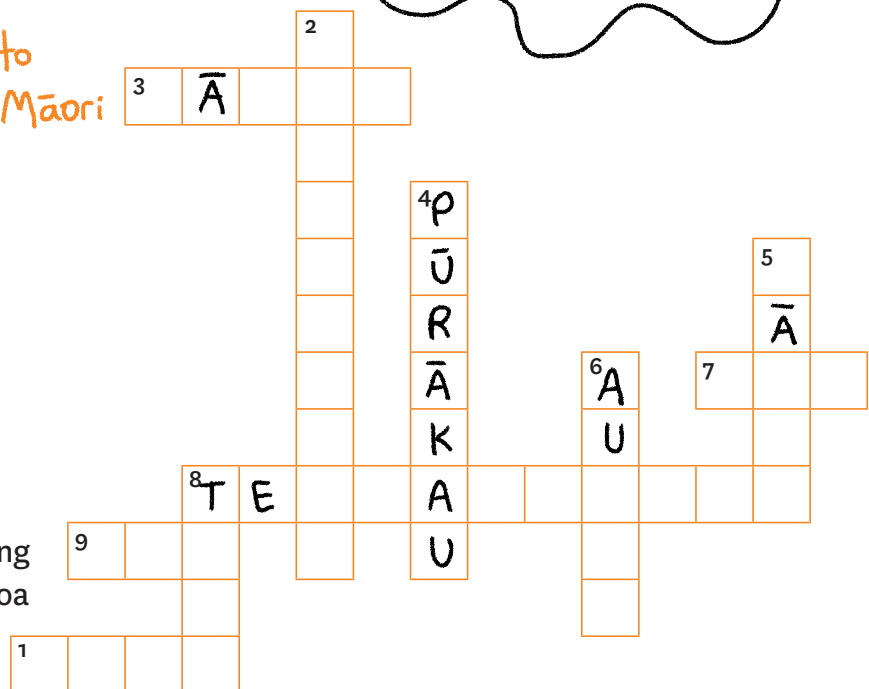
Use these clues to guess the Kupu Māori

Across

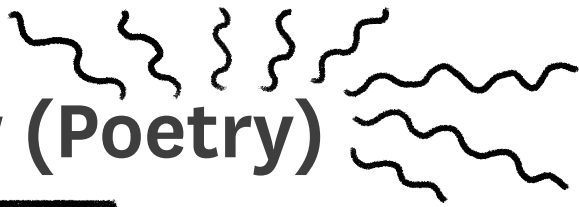
1. Word
3. Tree, stick
7. Art
8. Te reo Māori learning system
9. Language

Down

2. Artist's last name
4. Story-based knowledge sharing
5. Indigenous peoples of Aotearoa
6. Shape, form, creation
8. Sign, symbol



ArtWords: flow (Poetry)



Black painting XV, from 'Malady' a poem by Bill Manhire, 1970
Ralph Hotere

A poem can inspire a painting – just like a poem from Bill Manhire that inspired a series of paintings by Ralph Hotere.

In the poem, the words 'malady', 'melody' and 'my lady' are repeated to create an effect. Just like in this artwork the meaning, sound and visual words play with each other.

MALADY MELODY
MALADY MELODY
MALADY MELODY
MALADY MELODY
MALADYMELODY
MALADYMELODY
MALADYMELODY
MALADYDY
MELODY
MALADY
MELODYDY
MELCMALADY
MELODYALADY
MELODYMALADY
MELODY MALADY
MELODY MALADY



Try and read these words aloud. MALADY from top left to bottom right then MELODY from top right to bottom left.

Where the words intersect becomes a tussle between the two words. This tussle is both for your **karu eyes** and your **arero tongue**.

What are these words?

He aha te tikanga o enei kupu?

Melody (pronounced “mel-oh-dee”) is a noun. It’s a music term. A melody is a sequence of notes.

Malady (pronounced “mal-ah-dee”) is a noun. It means a problem, an illness, a wound, or another difficulty suffered by someone or something.



ArtWords: flow (Word ladder)

In this artwork by Mary-Louise Browne, you can see between each etched stone the words flow into each other.

Only one letter is changed at each step to create a new word. This is called a 'word ladder'.

In Browne's artwork, the starting word was **WHITE** and 14 one-letter changes later it ends in **BLACK**. Here are those changes in orange:

WHITE – **WHINE** – **SHINE**
SHINS – **SHUNS** – **STUNS**
STUNT – **STUNG** – **STING**
SLING – **SLINK** – **BLINK**
BLIND – **BLAND** – **BLANK**
BLACK



Can you solve the word ladder below?
 The clue to the right is the Kupu Māori for the answer.

H	E	A	D	↓ Upoko
H	E	A		Mahu
	E	A	L	Kārikiōrangi
T	E		L	Kōrero
T		L	L	Tāroaroa
T	A		L	Whiore



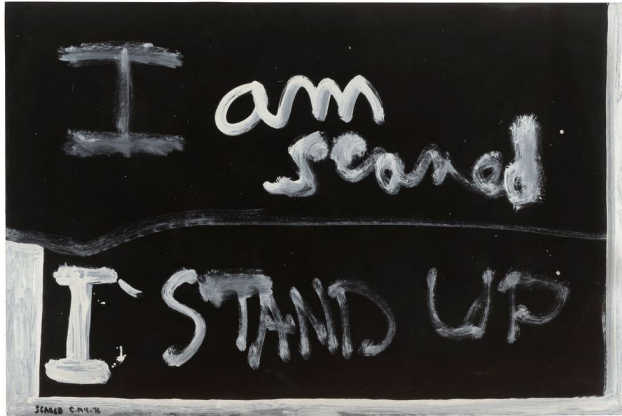
Black Sash, 1986
 Mary-Louise Browne

ArtWords: Kōrero

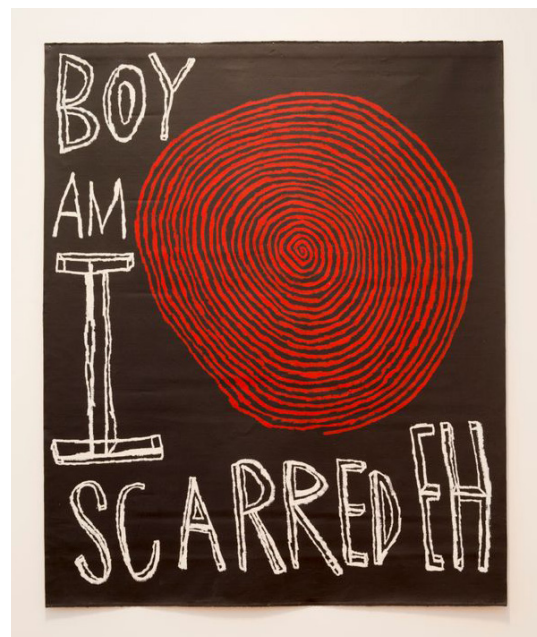
Sometimes artworks can talk to each other. They can even be artworks that respond to each other through time. Like these two artworks. Look at the dates! 1976 and 1997!



Imagine who is speaking.
Draw them having a conversation
with each other.



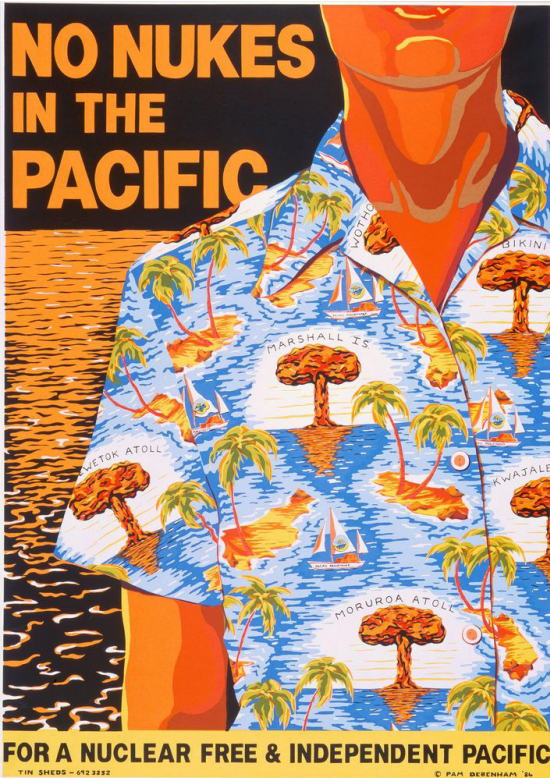
Colin McCahon
Scared, 1976



Peter Robinson
Boy Am I Scarred Eh, 1997



ArtWords: T-shirt statement



Pam Debenham
No nukes in the Pacific, 1984

Here is a poster that uses text and image to make a statement.

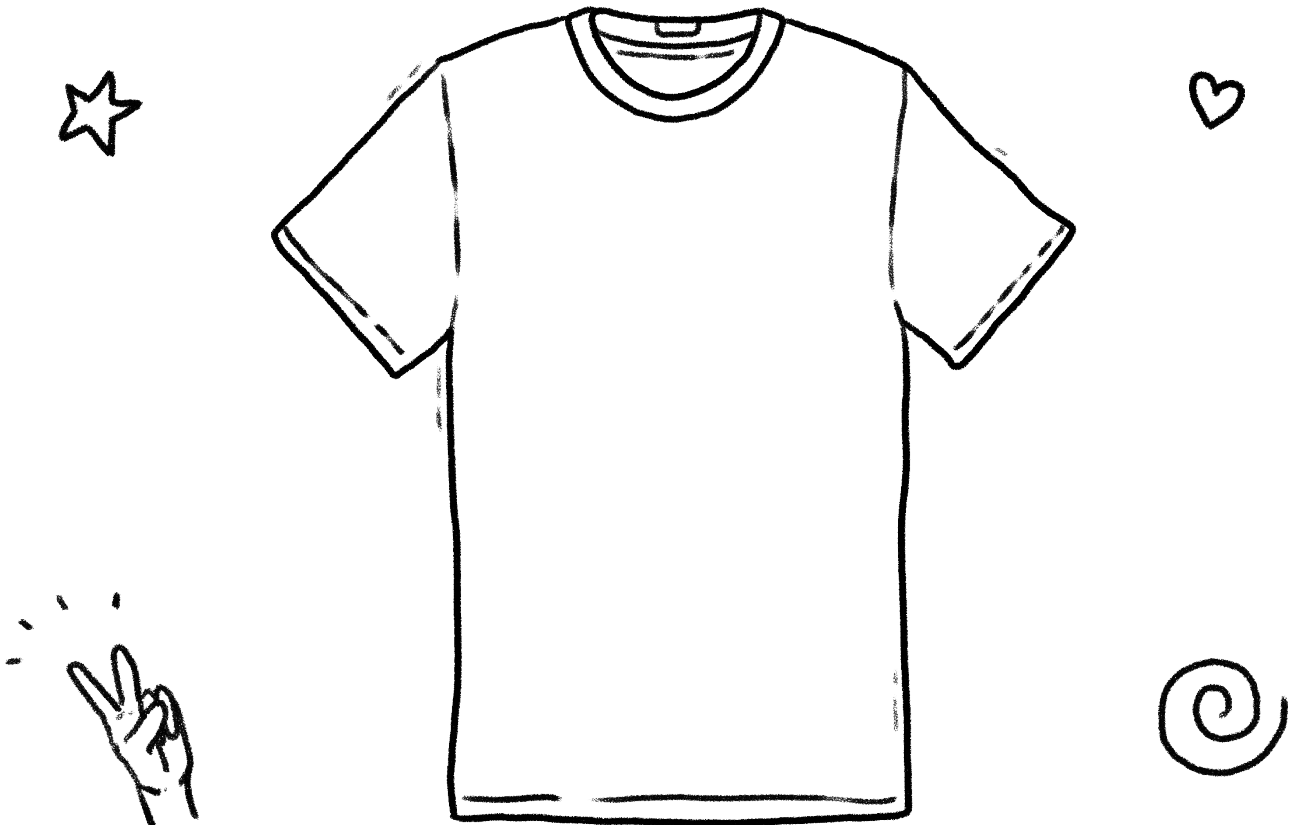
Look closely at the shirt on the poster and see how it relates to the bold text: **NO NUKES IN THE PACIFIC.**

When a person is wearing this shirt they become a walking message.

 Design your own t-shirt statement!

What words and images would you wear to tell people about something you care about.

Use colour, symbols and text to help people read your message.



If you want you could start with one of these statements in the middle and then add images, words and symbols around the t-shirt: 'I LOVE NATURE', 'BE HAPPY', 'I LOVE ART', 'AROHATIA TE REO MĀORI', 'HE TAONGA AHAU', 'TOI KUPU, KUPU TOI', 'THIS IS ME'

Can I print and share this activity book? **YES.**

Can I sell this activity book or use it for monetary benefit? **NO.**

Can I change and adapt this activity book? **SOME OF IT.***



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Font source

Page 4

Churchward Maori 1983 Hand Drawn Board, Joseph Churchward. Purchased 2008 (FE012255)

Image credits

Page 5

Joanna Paul; *Horses*, 1977–86, acrylic, paper. Purchased 1989 with Dugald Henderson Bequest funds (1989-0005-1)

Daniel Malone; *My name in lights*, 2006, neon, glass, wood, paper. Purchased 2010 (2010-0023-1/A-G to G-G)

Page 9

Peter Robinson; *I exist I am not another I am*, 2001, colour photograph, type C print. Purchased 2009 (0.032573)

Page 10

Michael Parekowhai; *Atarangi*, 1990, wood, lacquer. Purchased 2008 (2008-0006-1/A-L to L-L)

Page 11

Ralph Hotere; *Black painting XV, from 'Malady' a poem by Bill Manhire*, 1970, acrylic on canvas. Purchased 1971 (1971-0024-2)

Page 12

Mary-Louise Browne; *Black sash*, 1986, granite. Purchased 1987 with New Zealand Lottery Board funds (1987-0005-1/A to Q)

Page 13

Colin McCahon; *Scared*, 1976, acrylic paint, paper. Purchased 2008 (2008-0007-1)

Peter Robinon; *Boy Am I Scarred Eh*, 1997, oil on canvas. Purchased 2012 (2012-0016-5)

Page 14

Pam Debenham; *No nukes in the Pacific....*, screen print on paper. Purchased 1988 with Harold Beauchamp Collection funds (1988-0009-2)