

17 September – 24 October 2021





Pātaka Art + Museum Cnr Norrie and Parumoana Streets Porirua City

Ka mua, ka muri

Walking Backwards into the future.

Beverly Rhodes

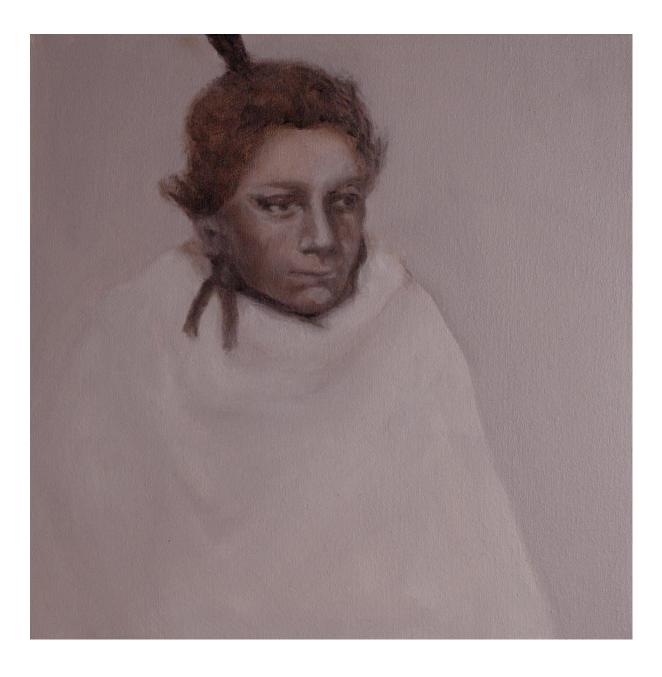
September 17th until October 24th 2021 Toi Gallery, PĀTAKA ART + MUSEUM

'Ka mua, ka muri', walking backwards into the future, is a whakataukī, or Māori proverb, that expresses the importance of looking to the past to guide the future. Beverly Rhodes' father left when she was just five years old, severing a link to part of her family history. In her late 40s, Beverly discovered the secret of her Ngāi Tahu whakapapa.

Ka mua ka muri. Walking backwards into the future is a reflection of Beverly's memories of loss and identity. The works in the exhibition acknowledge and explore her rediscovered family history, helping Beverly forge a new path into the future.

Beverly paints her family members and tīpuna from old family photographs taken at special occasions. The paintings' soft pastel colour palette recall the muted colours of the hand-tinted photographs taken in the 1940s and 1950s. Non-figurative works represent events, both past and future. A suitcase stands in for her father, while an ACME wringer represents her mother.

In the final painting of the series a toroa (albatross) flies over Lyttleton Harbour towards Cape Reinga, and from there on to Hawaiki, as it carries Beverly back to her tīpuna. The toroa represents Beverly's hope for the future as she reconnects to her Ngāi Tahu whakapapa by learning te reo and through wānanga with the Ngāi Tahu visual arts collective, Paemanu.



Rikki Paana (Richard Burns) age 12

Oil on canvas 400 x 400mm NFS



Rikki Paana (Richard Burns) age 90

Oil on canvas 400 x 400mm NFS



Tīpuna

Oil on canvas 1200 x 1200mm \$2200



Dad the likely lad



The wedding



Four generations



Corrugated iron and hollyhocks



Smiling girl



Nana and Grandad at the races



Gone

Oil on canvas 1200 x 1200mm \$2200



Nana and the girls



Wallflower

Oil on canvas 1000 x 1000mm \$1900



A father's case



A mother's ACME



Toroa over Whakaraupo (Albatross over Lyttleton)

Oil on canvas 830 x 1200mm \$2200



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