

KI UTA, KI TAI



Title: ‘Ki uta, ki tai’

Meaning: Over the land & water (kaitiakitanga)

Starting from the left panel, there is a Piwaiwaka, Kōkopu, Katipō, Kahawai, Kārearea, Ruru, Pou, Kotare, Mangō, Pou, Tui, Pātiki, Īnanga, Hihi, Tuna, Piharau, Ruru (with Tūmango design). The central shark also signifies the mana of the Ngāti Tumango, a pre-eminent hapu of this area. The focus is on the environment and the fish/birds are given priority over the designs which are imbued with various meanings. There is a direct correlation between some designs and events from local history (pre-settler contact), where as other designs are more generic.

From left to right are various designs using niho-taniwha (to convey attributes of bravery, determination, strength, perseverance, tenacity). There are also designs associated with protection, abundance, achievement, cultivation, innovation, balance, proliferation of ideas & life. The last panel (featuring the white Ruru with Tūmango design) is named ‘Nga hau e wha’ or the four winds- for the location of the Sarjeant Gallery building atop Pukenamu, a historic fighting pā & a special site of significance for our local Whanganui tribes.

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