



## Electricity, movement, and light



Toi rerehiko is a term developed by artist Rachael Rakena (Ngāpuhi, Ngāi Tahu) to describe Māori moving image art. In her 2003 Masters dissertation, she defined the phrase (and her practice) as “art that employs electricity, movement, and light”.

A storm of toi rerehiko has descended on The Dowse Art Museum with the opening of new show, *Māori Moving Image: An Open Archive*. On now until the 21<sup>st</sup> of July, the exhibition showcases the work of more than 20 Māori moving image artists, and invites visitors to immerse themselves in the talent of this community.

Pieces from the past 40 years take pride of place in the *Open Archive*. Visitors can expect to see *Te Utu*, a short film telling

the Maori genesis story by Professor Robert Jahnke (Ngāi Taharora, Te Whānau a Iritekura, Te Whānau a Rakairo o Ngāti Porou) alongside Lisa Reihana's (Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Hine, Ngāti Tū) *Native Portrait n.19897*. There will also be a revolving schedule of works in two screening rooms for repeat visitors to discover.

“This exhibition serves to focus on the moving image aspect of Māori art through developing an archive of important Māori moving image works for audiences to see, connect with, and discuss,” co-curator Bridget Reweti says.

Reweti adds that with this exhibition, she and the other half of the curatorial team, Melanie Oliver, welcome Māori into the gallery as “artists, performers, academics, and visitors”.

“I'm keen to discuss how video works made by Māori artists engage with cinema, architecture, and customary narratives. How do different artists engage with the art form? How do audiences see works from the past and today?”