

Jess Rauora Collins (Miss Tino) is a multimedia Māori visual artist whose work illuminates the intersections of culture, identity, and contemporary expression. Jess holds a Bachelor of Māori Visual Arts with Honours from Toioho ki Apiti (Massey University) and expresses the pūrākau of her tūpuna through contemporary art practices. Jess' work explores themes of Tino Rangatiratanga and Kaitiakitanga in the face of continued colonial violence, and invites the audience to engage in critical dialogue about the complex issues facing the next generation.

A tohu for our moko

Jess Collins
Te Tairāwhiti

Digital print on 189gsm textile cloth, 840x840mm in wooden frame.

Tīpuna

Jess Collins
Te Tairāwhiti

acrylic on pinus radiata 1200x230mm

In their āhuru mōwai, I was born,
A testament to the strength they bore.
Their aroha and guidance, steadfast and true,
Nurture our wairua as we journey through.

Tūpuna

Jess Collins
Te Tairāwhiti

acrylic on pinus radiata 1200x230mm

Mā te pā te tamaiti e whakatipu

In the village of my life, a tribute we weave,
To the pou that warmed my mauri.
Love and grief entwined, like Mahuika's fiery dance,
With tears as tukutuku, repetitive in their stance.

Mahuika's gift, extinguishes the dark nights embrace,
Tukutuku intertwines our sacred space.
A tapestry woven, connections entrenched,
Diverse and nourishing, like roots in the whenua.

Five rākau of Mahuika, stand so tall,
Each facet of love, they tenderly install.
In this ngāhere of warmth, they draw us near,
In this village of my life, a tribute to revere.