

JANELLE WILSON

ARTIST STATEMENT

Tena koutou katoa,
Ko Aoraki te mauka,
Ko Waitaki te awa,
Ko Takitimu te waka,
Ko Kai Tahu, ko Te Whakatohea ka iwi,
Ko Waihao, ko Puketeraki ka marae,
Ko Janelle Wilson taku ikoa,
No Timaru ahau,
No reira,
Tena koutou, tena koutou, tena koutou katoa.

GREETINGS TO ALL !

Aoraki is the mountain, Waitaki is the river, Takitimu is the canoe, Kai Tahu and Te Whakatohea are the iwi, Waihao and Puketeraki are the marae, Janelle Wilson is my name, I am from Timaru, therefore, Greetings to all!

I work primarily in the medium of oil and acrylic paints and have a figurative art practice. Among my artistic heroes are Frida Kahlo, Robyn Kahukiwa, June Northcroft Grant, and Gottfried Lindauer.

I chose to paint portraits for my Master's thesis, adding elements of geometric Maori woven patterns into the background spaces creating fields of cultural indicators. My thesis explores the concept of puihi and Mana Wahine; the status and influence of women in Maori culture and the Sanctity of Womanhood.

It appalls me that in this, the Millennium, women throughout the world still struggle against poverty and racism, struggle to become educated and to have equality alongside men. It also appalls me that the domestic abuse and suicide rates among Maori are increasing. 2016 had the highest rate of suicide by Maori women to date. Why is this happening?

My ambitions for my art practice are to celebrate and empower women through my artwork, engaging both men and women, giving them positive depictions of traditional female roles and virtues, expressing to the world the Sanctity of Womanhood.