

Breeze Durham (Te Hikitu, Ngāti Kura, Ngāti Ruamahue)

Kei Waenganui o ngā atua wāhine

2021

audio, publication

Kei waenganui o ngā Atua Wāhine is a collaborative exhibition which brings together stories and voices of Wāhine Māori creative practitioners. The project explores the possibilities of art and design when an ecology of a space is made to hold their whakairo, a space where they can rest and be shared.

Kei waenganui o ngā Atua wāhine is centred by an audio archive, featuring Elisapeta Hinemoa Heta, Qiane Matata-Sipu, Te Ara Minhinnick, Nikau Hindin, Hana Pera Aoake, Zoe Black, Heidi Brickell and Cassie Hart. These nine Wāhine each share advice they wish they had been given as emerging practitioners and offer their hopes for future generations. This audio is surrounded by writings of Atua Wāhine. Saskia Sassen, Ariana Sutton, and Cassie Hart tell their stories of Papatūānuku, Hinetītama, & Hinenuitepō. *Kei waenganui o ngā Atua Wāhine* is a living conversation and a collective voice that is activated through audio, poetry, short stories, image and design. Not bound by dimension or time, but by te whakaaro, te ahua, te mauri o ngā Mana Wāhine. Nō te hā ōrite.

Kurawaka is a publication designed to support the larger kaupapa of *Kei waenganui o ngā Atua Wāhine*. The publication collates excerpts from the audio archive, writings of Atua Wāhine and images and design. Within the limitations presented by colonial rules of book design, *Kurawaka* questions the dimensions, functionality and forms that books take and the constraints on experience presented to engage an audience. *Kurawaka* explores how a historically western medium can be better designed and repurposed to more appropriately hold these stories and these whakaaro on its pages.

“Remember you are a descendant of Atua Wāhine you are a descendant of the greatest gods that created this Earth. You are a descendant of those tupuna who guide you on your pathway. Listen for their tohu, look out for their tohu, they are helping you along the way.” - Qiane Matata Sipu