

Renee Cosgrave & Maia Kreisler

Waiho i te toipoto (keep close together)

Gertrude Glasshouse
8 August – 5 September 2026

As an exhibition title, *Waiho i te Toipoto* evokes whānau and kinship, whakapapa and ancestral connection, community and collective care, belonging and the bonds that endure across distance and time. For these bodies of work, both concerned with whakapapa, memory, and relationships, they carry both a personal and collective meaning without being overly descriptive. Whakapapa is often translated as genealogy or family lineage. In simple terms, whakapapa is the story of where you come from and how you are connected. This collaborative exhibition brings into dialogue a wall painting by Gertrude Studio Artist Renee Cosgrave (Ngāti Tūwharetoa) and a series of recent works by Maia Kreisler (Ngāti Mutunga & Te Āti Awa), contextualised and expanded through an exhibition text by Emma Hislop (Kāi Tahu).

Cosgrave's temporal wall painting is an activity to help the artist remember/recall and connect to her whakapapa i te taha o tōku kuia/ on the side of her paternal grandmother. In this abstracted work, colours are depicting places where some of her tūpuna were born. Tūpuna details have been protected and not shared publicly, but are available through kōrero for whānau who whakapapa to this line.

Artist Biographies:

Renee Cosgrave is a visual artist, arts worker, and mother based in Naarm Melbourne, from Aotearoa New Zealand. She is of Irish, Māori (Ngāti Tūwharetoa), and Scottish descent. Her practice explores painting, drawing, raranga (Māori weaving), public art and modes of collaboration. Cosgrave's works reflect on her

tūrangawaewae (homebase) and culture through colour, repetition, gesture and language. Recent exhibitions include *Gertrude Studios 2025: Various Small Fires* (with members of Te Reo Maioha), Gertrude Contemporary, 2026; *Much like cooking a meal* (with Merryn Lloyd), La Trobe Art Institute, Bendigo, 2025; *Pink Heat*, Hayden's Gallery, Naarm Melbourne, 2023; *Whanaunga* (with Aunty Dorothy Nilson), Blak Dot Gallery, Naarm Melbourne, 2022; and *Ahi Mahana* (with Kori Miles), Sutton Projects, Naarm Melbourne, 2019.

Renee Cosgrave is represented by Hayden's Gallery, Naarm Melbourne.

Maia Kreisler is a Māori ceramic artist of Ngāti Mutunga and Te Āti Awa descent based in Naarm Melbourne. Her practice explores whakapapa, identity, cultural memory, and the relationships between people, place, and ancestral knowledge through hand-built ceramic vessels and sculptural forms. Informed by Māori cosmologies, histories of passive resistance, and the transmission of knowledge through whānau, her work considers how identity is shaped through connections to ancestors, community, and Country. Kreisler holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours) from Massey University, Wellington, and a Diploma in Māori Art and Design from Te Wānanga o Aotearoa, Wellington, studying uku under renowned Māori artist Wi Taepa. Her work is held in collections including The Dowse Art Museum, Puke Ariki, Wellington Museum, The Arts House Trust and Craft Victoria.

Maia Kreisler is represented by Season, Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland.

Acknowledgements:

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Gertrude Glasshouse is generously supported by Michael Schwarz and David Clouston.

List of works

1. Renee Cosgrave
Tongue 2025
Oil on linen
45 x 36 cm
2. Renee Cosgrave
Kuikui 2026
Acrylic and pencil
wall painting,
dimensions variable
3. Renee Cosgrave
*drawing whakapapa
there is the unknown
and a higher connection to atua*
2026
Oil on linen
51 x 61 cm

TE AO

Rātana Pā

Rātana Pā was established in the 1920s. A prominent spiritual and faith leader, Tahupōtiki Wiremu Rātana was the founder of the Rātana religion which challenged the government and British Crown to honour the Treaty of Waitangi.

Mōkai

Mōkai Pā erected 1900 for Hitiri Te Paerata.

Ōtorohanga

Ōtorohanga was a traditional Māori village. After the King Country was opened to European settlement in the 1880s Ōtorohanga became the home of government services and the Native Land Court.
North King Country town in Waikato region.

Huiputea Tree – Around this tree in 1822, after their victory at Matakītiki, a section of Ngāpuhi had an advance base where they were surprised and annihilated by a party of Waikato and Maniapoto. Captive Waikato women aided the attackers. Soon after this reverse, all Ngāpuhi returned North. [Sign at location] The Musket Wars were a series of as many as 3,000 battles and raids fought throughout Aotearoa among Māori between 1806 and 1845.

Te Reu Reu

Te Reureu were Kingitanga supporters and fought against the crown in the Waikato and Taranaki wars.

Police apologise for raids and trauma caused in 1993.

Wairoa

Waipahīhī, Taupō

Tūrangi

County Cork / Contae Chorcaí

Known as 'The Rebel County'. In 1844 there was severe poverty, overcrowding and high unemployment

Tauranga

List of works

4. Maia Kreisler
Taranaki Surf 2019
Ink, watercolour and acrylic on paper
68.5 x 89 cm (framed)
5. Maia Kreisler
Sound Shell 2019
Ink, watercolour and acrylic on paper
63.5 x 83.5 cm (framed)
6. Maia Kreisler
Maharatanga (Memory) 2026
Handbuilt ceramic with silver finish
dimensions variable
7. Maia Kreisler
Ngā Aho Kōrero (Threads of Story) 2026
Handbuilt ceramic with silver finish
dimensions variable
8. Maia Kreisler
Te Manawa (The Heart / Centre) 2026
Handbuilt ceramic with silver finish
dimensions variable

9. Maia Kreisler
Te Kaitiaki (The Guardian) 2026
Handbuilt ceramic with silver finish
dimensions variable
10. Maia Kreisler
Waka huia II (With black and with red the work is completed) 2023
Pit-fired Aotearoa clay
33 x 13 x 10 cm
11. Maia Kreisler
I am close to you and I see you step into the light 2023
Pit-fired Aotearoa clay
12 x 12 x 8 cm
12. Maia Kreisler
Waka Huia I (With black and with red the work is completed) 2023
Pit-fired Aotearoa clay
6 x 14 x 8 cm
13. Maia Kreisler
Moemoeā (Dreaming) 2026
Handbuilt ceramic with silver finish
dimensions variable

Renee Cosgrave artworks
courtesy of the artist and
Hayden's Gallery, Naarm
Melbourne.

Maia Kreisler artworks courtesy
of the artists and Season, Tāmaki
Makaurau Auckland.

