

6 & 7 August 2025

Art Appreciation lecture series 2025

Legendary Stories: Leonardo da Vinci to Murakami

Heke fells the flagstaff at Kororāreka, Arthur David McCormick

Dr Alex McKay



Arthur David McCormick, *Heke fells the flagstaff at Kororāreka*, 1908

Lecture summary

Learn about the exploits of Māori hero Hōne Heke through the work of Arthur David McCormick, an Irishman who visited Aotearoa New Zealand briefly and may have been sympathetic to Heke's actions against British rule. On three occasions in 1844, Heke cut down the British flagpole in Kororāreka as a part of a wider rebellion. He became a symbol of Māori identity and sovereignty, and McCormick's 1908 work became an iconic New Zealand image.

Slide list

1. NSWAG Title slide
2. A.D.McCormick: *Heke fells the flagstaff at Kororareka*; Alexander Turnbull Library A-004-037/047: used by permission.
3. A.D.McCormick: *Lord Nelson at the Battle of Copenhagen & The Death of Admiral Blake*; public domain.
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5. A.D.McCormick: *Self portrait* from McCormick, A.D. *An Artist in the Himalayas*. New York: Macmillan, 1895. (Out of copyright)
6. See 2 (above).
7. Heinrich Maria von Hess: *Boniface felling the Donar Oak* (1834); public domain.

8. *Father, I Cannot Tell a Lie: I Cut the Tree*: 1867 engraving by John C. McRae, from a painting by George C. White; public domain.
9. Merrett, Joseph Jenner: *The warrior chieftains of New Zealand*. [1846] Ref: C-012-019. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. Used with permission.
10. Drummond, Christine Lynnette, 1947-. *Waitangi fraud. Fight government land rip-offs. Join Bastion Point tent protests* [1978]. Feb 5th. March 7 p.m. Bunny St. Rally 8.15 Civic Sq. [1981].. Ref: Eph-D-MAORI-1978-05. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand; used with permission.
11. *Treaty of Waitangi*: New Zealand National Archives; public domain. This file is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 2.0 Generic license. Archives Reference: IA9/9 Sheets 1-9
12. (Main Image) Marcus King, *The Signing of the Treaty of Waitangi, 6 February 1840*, 1938 Oil on canvas 1205 × 1810 mm: REFERENCE G-821-2 Alexander Turnbull Library Trust, Wellington, New Zealand; Permission applied for 23/7/25, acknowledged but no response to date.
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16. A.D.McCormick: *Reading the Play*; public domain
17. A.D.McCormick: *In the Captain's Room*; public domain.
18. See 2 (above).
19. See 2 (above).
20. Quotation: (from Auckland Libraries Heritage Collections GNZMA-377)
21. Gottfried Lindauer: *Hone Heke Ngapua*; public domain
22. See 2 (above).
23. (From) Nathan Thompson. *Heke Te Toa! How has Hone Heke Pokai, Pictorially Represented, Contributed to the Construction of New Zealand's National Identity 1840-2005?*: Master Of Arts In Art History thesis, University Of Canterbury, 2006, p.172-73.
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26. See 2 (above).
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