

# EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AT WHIRINAKI WHARE TAONGA

## EDUCATION VISITS TERM 1 2024



Whirinaki Whare Taonga is Upper Hutt's own art and culture hub. We are committed to offering FREE engaging and accessible visual and performing art experiences for local students and have a range of exciting world class programmes.



**Message from the Learning Programmes Specialist, Charlotte Smith.**

### **Kia ora tatou**

Over the past 3 months, 1,300 ākonga from around the Wellington region (and beyond) came for a school visit to our extremely popular exhibition Hall of Heroes. We had an absolute blast! As we look forward to 2024, I'm excited for another term of curiosity, learning and fun together.

### **What to expect in Term 1:**

In Term 1, we have two wonderful exhibitions available for school visits. From the very

start of term, we have Home: One City, Many Cultures. It will be an incredible option for the start of the year as you all get to know each other in your new classes. On a completely different note, we will have Stack which is an immersive, sensory light experience which complements the Highlight festival coming to our community in 2024.

Below you will see the big questions we will focus on during these school visits. These can be adapted and changed to suit you and your class; just let me know. If you would like to talk through a specific focus for me to cater for during your visit, I am also very happy to meet with you one-on-one. We are always here to supplement your in-class mahi. You will receive an educational resource pack to accompany your gallery experience, full of activities and resources to help you teach in meaningful ways before and after your visit.





# HOME: ONE CITY, MANY CULTURES

**18 December 2023 until end of 2024**

**Education visits: Week 1 to Week 10 (and will continue across the year).  
Suitable for year 1 and up. Cost: FREE.**

This exhibition will be amazing for Term 1 as you all get to know each other in your new classes. The exhibition tells the stories of ten families who have travelled from other countries to make Upper Hutt their home. Here, they share their personal journeys, their challenges and triumphs, and what it is to leave one home behind, to create a new one.

Through their stories, hear insights into why they left, how they got here and what brought them to Upper Hutt, New Zealand. Experience their fear, their joy, their sadness. Share in their struggles and rejoice with them in their successes. Most of all, celebrate the families and cultures that make Upper Hutt the multicultural community it is today.

Accompanying each family's story are objects which are special treasures to them, reminding them of their other home. Having your students share taonga with their class is a wonderful way to get to know each other. Hearing the stories of these migrants' treasures will be an effective way to inspire children when it comes to sharing their own taonga and stories. An amazing meaningful connection between community, school and home for our tamariki.

Meeting a lot of you during the Hall of Heroes visits, I can see how this visit would be immensely valuable for everyone as all your classes are made up of a vast array of wonderful cultures who now call Upper Hutt home. Very relevant!

As the year goes on, Home will still be offered as a school visit, but the focus can change to being an introduction to mana whenua

and encompassing the Aotearoa NZ Histories Curriculum which explores the pre-European Maori history of the Hutt Valley. Other options to focus on would be migration, geography, tolerance, diversity, resilience, photography, storytelling...and the list goes on.

This tour and creative workshop has links to Visual Art, Social Sciences and Literacy (storytelling).

## **Our Big Questions:**

- What makes somewhere "home"?
- What is a refugee?
- What makes something a "treasure"?
- Which taonga do we each possess and why are they important to us?
- Which cultures and stories exist in our class?
- How can storytelling create more empathy towards all people in our class/ city/ country/ world?
- How else can we show empathy towards people who are new to our community?

## **In our creative workshop we will:**

- Explore ideas of what makes somewhere home and what makes something a treasure.
- Share about our taonga and family stories and why they are important to us.
- Learn about the value of empathy and how it can help us understand each other better.
- Gain an understanding of the word refugee.
- Create a pouaka taonga (treasure chest) to later fill with our small taonga, then share with our classmates so we can learn more about each other.



# STACK BY ANGUS MUIR

**3 February to 18 April 2024**

**Education visits: Week 1 to Week 11**

## **Undertake a sensory journey through Muir's innovative manipulation of space.**

At Whirinaki Whare Taonga we are committed to supporting and supplementing community events. Over Easter weekend, Upper Hutt will host Highlight festival. No doubt you will have students who will visit this event. Alongside this, we will be exhibiting the work of artist Angus Muir through the light and sensory exhibition 'Stack.' This light installation presents as a simple arrangement of neon shapes which upon closer inspection, are more intricate than they seem. Each lightbox forms a layered composition that draws the eye inward, beckoning the viewer to delve deeper into its visual landscape. As light emanates from within, the squares come to life, casting gentle, radiant glows that traverse the surfaces. Specialising in atmospheric architecture, Angus Muir's work is dedicated to contemporary, immersive experiences.

Muir is happy to create for creation's sake. His core belief is that his team are creating something that just is what it is. It's big, and it's colourful and it's interactive. To him, art and installation is something that should be accessible to everyone. He believes art doesn't have to be driven by politics or the bigger

picture- a kid can enjoy it; an older person can enjoy it. His team work on installations in different countries where people don't speak English and have different religions, but the art is the same beautiful thing to everyone. Muir says their work, due to the bright colours being very photogenic, turns observers into artists.

At 13 years old, Muir was helping with stage lighting at The Court Theatre in Christchurch when he discovered how light could change moods and transform a space. He became very curious about it. Muir never imagined at 13 years old the unique niche he would carve out for himself years later. Muir says "Follow your passions. If you love what you're doing you'll get there, I strongly believe that. I love what I do, and I've gone down a really different path and ended up with a business and doing what I love and having fun every day."

## **Education Visit: Gallery Tour and Creative Workshop**

**1 hour and 45 minutes. Suitable for Year 1 and up. Cost: FREE.**

Tamariki will look at the concepts of light and colour, and how they can be used to create mood and transform space.

We will begin by looking at Angus Muir’s journey as an artist and how he followed his passions and curiosity to create a job for himself that he really enjoys. We will consider our own passions and how we can follow them to create a life which “lights us up.” We will then consider our beliefs around the purpose of art and which one this art might be meeting. Then we will visit Muir’s light installation and see how it transforms the space. When we return to the classroom, we will discover the art of Houxo Que. He is a Japanese street artist who works with fluorescent paint and black lights to create massive glowing works of art. He also does it live. He is part performance artist, part street artist. His large-scale glowing art is captivating.

Children will then have the chance to create their own neon art with UV light.

This tour and workshop will focus on the Visual Arts area of the curriculum.

### Our Big Questions:

- What is an art installation?
- What is the purpose of art?
- How can light affect mood?
- How can light transform space?
- What effect can colour have?
- What “lights us up”? What are our passions and how do we follow them?

### In our creative workshop we will:

- Investigate Angus Muir’s journey as an artist and how he followed his passions to create his future job, identifying what “lights us up” in the same way.
- Share ideas about how Angus Muir has used light, colour and space to create ‘Stack.’
- Examine another artist model, Japanese artist Houxo Que.
- Create an artwork exploring the medium of neon paint and UV light.

Take the opportunity to book now, as our last programme was wildly popular. Don’t miss out! Send me an email to secure your spot.

## PLANNING A VISIT

### Getting here

Public Transport: with buses and trains stopping at Upper Hutt Station, Whirinaki Whare Taonga is just a five minute walk down the road.

Bringing your own bus or cars: car parking and bus drop off points are right behind Expressions in the carpark near H2O Xtream swimming pool.



### During Your Visit

Lunch & morning tea:

We have an indoor space to enjoy morning and afternoon tea should the weather require (subject to availability)

School bags & jackets:

Yes you can bring your school bags and jackets as we have a space for them while you visit.

### For further information or to book a visit please contact

#### Charlotte Smith

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Charlotte is also available throughout the year to visit your school and discuss the exhibition programme and the opportunities for your students. Please contact her to make a time to visit you.



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