

MOANA  
CURRENTS

DRESSING  
AOTEAROA NOW

# MOANA CURRENTS

7 September — 1 December 2019

@moanacurrents

1.

## Keva Rands x Papa Clothing

### **Mama dress**

linen  
2019



“The dress is ‘one size fits all’ so it reflects my commitment to not limiting my designs to one body type. The silhouette highlights my personal heritage across Moana nui a Kiwa, which are the communities I want to honour in my work.”

## Fran Allison

### **Doily Daisy Chain Lei**

recycled doilies, paper, brass  
2002, 2010

Garlands or leis signify acceptance, love, celebration and recognition of achievement. Discarded crocheted doilies have been given a new life which celebrates all the countless hours women spent creating them.

## Moko Smith

### **Custom ta moko**

2019

“Our ancestral tattooing practices are all related through the Moana. The ocean paths that our tupuna sailed over the generations brought exchange, intermarriage, inspiration and admiration for each other’s ways.”

2.



## Emilia Wickstead x Woolmark

**Jumpsuit and wrap from the *Ordinary Yet Extraordinary Women* capsule collection**

Australian merino wool  
2019

Created in collaboration with the Woolmark Company, London-based New Zealand-born designer Emilia Wickstead chose to photograph the collection on a cast of visionary New Zealand women. This fine wool wrap is reminiscent of a majestic cloak which is worn draped over the belted jumpsuit.

3.



## Stan Tallon x Sam's Island Gear

### Otara Love t-shirt

cotton, plastisol ink screenprint

2019

worn with Workshop Denim jeans, Tanoa lavalava

The printed t shirt can be seen as a sort of walking billboard, giving expression to the wearer's ideas or allegiances. It is a format that provides a platform for that essential cultural tool, humour. Sometimes irreverent or self deprecating but also offering serious social commentary and expressions of identity.

## Alan Preston

### Ulabanana necklace

banana seeds, vau (hibiscus fibre), paint

2017, 2019

As one of the founding members of Fingers jewellery gallery in Auckland, Alan Preston has been at the forefront of developing the Aotearoa idiom in jewellery making, valorising local materials and techniques.



4.



## Trelise Cooper

### **Shed A Tier dress**

silk  
2019

The comfort, ease and pleasure that we enjoy in Aotearoa on a relaxed summer day is given expression in this brightly printed mu'umu'u inspired dress.

## Zelda Murray

### **Beaded flower earrings and brooch**

glass beads, sterling silver  
2018

Inspiration from local flora is given form using strands of glass beads.



5.

## Trelise Cooper x Air New Zealand

### **Koru wrapdress**

polyester  
2011

Close to 4,500 cabin crew and airport staff are currently wearing the official uniform of our national airline carrier, Air New Zealand. The print features a bold koru motif along with other abstract botanicals, while the clever dress with its wrap ties offers plenty of opportunity for the wearer to style it to suit their diverse body shapes. For many people this dress gives them their first impression of Aotearoa.





6.

## Karen Walker and Kuki 'Airani Creative Mamas

### **Tivaevae gown**

Italian wool flannel

2018

Collection of Te Papa Tongarewa

As New Zealand's official entry for the inaugural Commonwealth Fashion Exchange, this dress was presented, by its makers, to HRH the Duchess of Cambridge and US Vogue's editor-in-chief Anna Wintour at Buckingham Palace in February 2018. The tivaevae embroidery depict gardenia, jasmine, orchid, hibiscus, fruit salad plant, red ginger, frangipani and the Cook Islands national flower – Tiare Māori, as well as the iconic Karen Walker daisy motif.

# 7.

## Ema-Lea Phillipps

**Untouchable Kakahu from Urban Warrior collection**

cotton drill

2019



This garment represents Ema-Lea's answer to protection and survival amid modern-day fears and anxieties. "I'm not only being inspired by forms and techniques from my heritage, but also energy in the way I shared my mauri with this collection."

## Victor Webster

**Tattoo top for Junya Watanabe Spring Summer 2019**

man-made fibre

2018

"If you look at Pacific Island art, a lot of the patterns always come back to nature," says Victor. "It may be a simple repetition you see in a leaf or a fern. I think those connections to pattern and nature are always a recurring theme in my work."

## Zelda Murray

**Earrings**

perspex, wood and sterling silver

2018

Hand-carved wood earrings nod to the heritage of carved wood found in Polynesian handicrafts, its smooth shape mimics that of a Samoan pate (drum) and is hung off a contrasting Perspex teardrop.



8.

## Misty Ratima

**Ko Rangi rāua ko Papa**  
cotton, screenprint, pvc  
2018

The title of this unisex streetwear collection expresses Misty Ratima's understanding, rooted in kaupapa Māori, that every element of the environment, the sky father and the earth mother, is related to us and we must care for it.



## O Te Motu Creations

**Raukura nunui (large feather earrings)**  
hand-cut recycled inner tubes, sterling silver  
2019

These raukura have their origins in a homeschooling project. With each one hand drawn and hand cut from discarded bicycle inner tubes they realise a kaupapa that links all of us across time. "We looked to the PAST of our tupuna and their resourcefulness. Next we looked at the PRESENT day destruction and devastation we are causing Papatūānuku through our consumerist behaviour. Becoming consciously aware we can create a more sustainable FUTURE."

9.

## Bill Urale (aka King Kapisi) x Overstayer

### Shirt, shorts

cotton, screenprint  
2003

Overstayer was the first urban clothing label to be picked up by a major department store: Farmers. Launched on the runway at Air New Zealand Fashion Week with a live performance by hip hop artist King Kapisi, the pieces went on sale at Farmers selling for less than \$90 each.



## Vaimaila Urale

### Custom tattoo and installation

2019

This work is all about connections. Vaimaila is Bill's sister. She is creating a dialogue between the motifs and symbols of Samoan tatau and the digital characters on a computer keyboard. This work is anchored in sand collected from the Manukau Harbour, visible through the adjoining window.

## Shona Tawhiao

### Raranga bucket hat

flax  
2019

A raranga woven hat to protect from the sun is an idea documented more than 250 years ago by Sydney Parkinson, the artist aboard the Endeavour. Contemporary weaver Shona Tawhiao gives it a modern hip hop inflection.

10.



## Adrienne Whitewood x Te Papa Tongarewa Collection

### **Pitau dress**

polyester  
2018

This simple tunic dress style has provided Adrienne with a canvas for her original graphics for a number of years now. Its unstructured easy fit makes it a quintessentially kiwi piece that appeals to our desire for modesty and comfort without drawing too much attention to ourselves.

## Kereama Taepa

### **Hei Tiki**

3-D printed polyamide  
2019

Here contemporary materials and technology contribute to the evolution of cultural forms and motifs keeping them relevant and desirable.



# 11.

## Andrew Douglas

### Duk-Duk dress

cotton, cotton embroidery threads  
2017

This dress is a contemporary reimagining of the meri blouse, the Tok Pisin (New Guinea pidgin) name for a mu'umu'u style dress. The embroidered motif of a Duk-Duk, represents an important ceremonial figure among the indigenous Tolai people of Rabaul, Papua New Guinea and this garment represents a Melanesian voice in our shared ocean.



## Neil Adcock

### Pendant

New Zealand kauri copal/gum, pounamu,  
brass, sterling silver, rubber  
2019

Kauri copal (fossilised gum) connects us to the history of the land of Aotearoa and its ancient forests where the giant kauri tree lived for over 2000 years.

## Julia Mage'au Gray

### Custom body markings

2019

The storytelling of ancient tattoo art among Melanesian women has inspired Julia to research and practice this unique form of hand-tap and hand-poked skin marking.



12.



## Steve Hall

### **Ruffle tunic, asymmetric bow top, beanie**

cotton, man-made taffeta, wool faille, wool angora  
2016

There is a flexibility to Steve Hall's approach to design that steers away from the gender normative and also, he says, "...draws indirectly on the influence of korowai..."

## Fran Allison

### **Bead Necklace from a T shirt**

recycled t shirt, cotton thread  
2016

Bead necklace from a t shirt is a seven meter continuous strand of cloth beads, made from an old t shirt. Recently Fran has been thinking about it as a trade item, "Give me a t shirt and a koha and I'll give you a bead necklace".

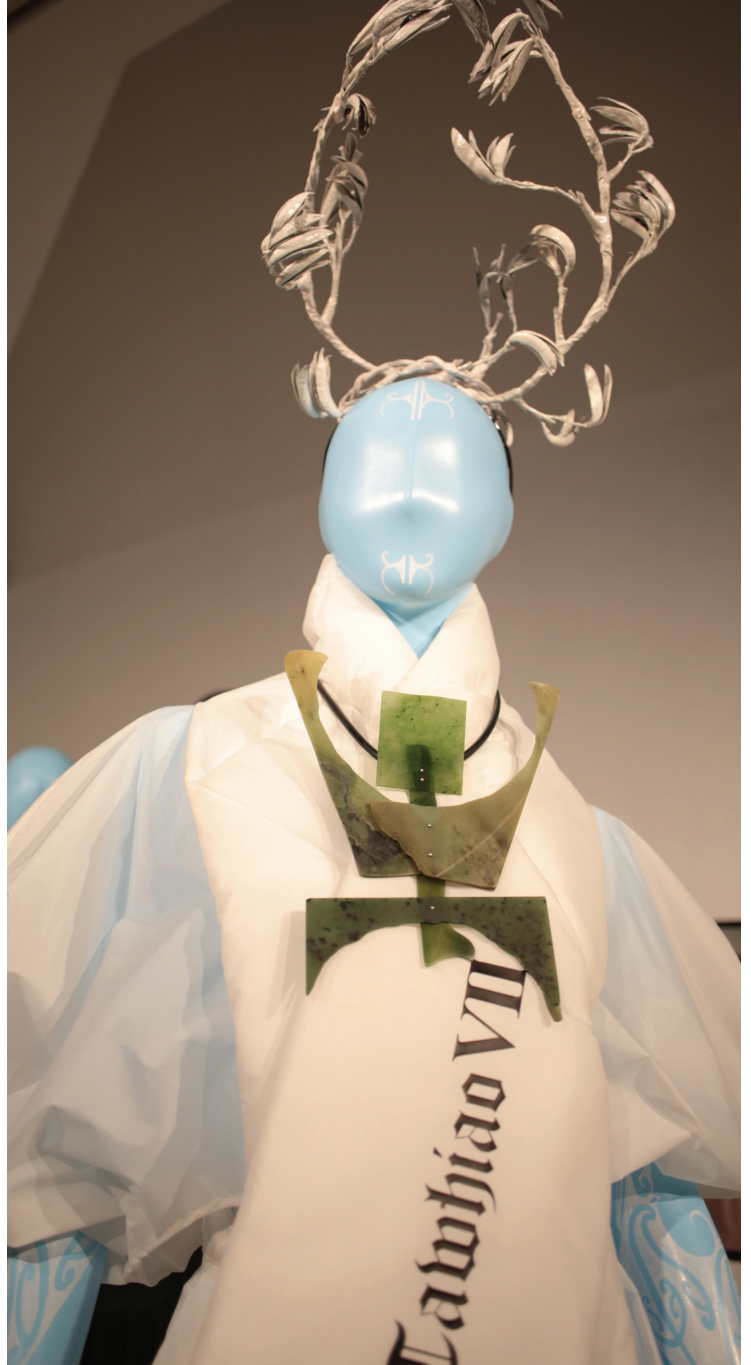
# 13.

## Shona Tawhiao

### **Ma is White from Te Rito collection**

parka nylon, wadding, screenprint, korari (flax flower), paint  
2017

White is a colour associated with high status. Natural plant fibre had to be heavily worked in order to be bleach white and it was only those who did not have to work who could keep their skin out of the sun. In the modern context Shona unites man-made and natural materials in fashion garments that keep moana values and motifs alive and moving forward.



## Neil Adcock

### **Dancing Tiki**

pounamu from 3 different stones, 24ct gold, sterling silver, rubber  
2019

Curator Dan Ahwa writes, "Not unlike the markings of graffiti on a wall, the figure of the dancing tiki is stylised and free; a graphic shape that feels immediately modern."

## Pip Hartley @ Karanga Ink

### **Custom ta moko**

2019

Pip is part of a new generation of ta moko artists who create individual and personal markings for their clients, carrying the art form forward while respecting its roots.

14.



## Natasha Clare Senior

### **Avarua**

linen organza, recycled polyester, recycled denim, neoprene  
2018

15 year old Christchurch based emerging designer Natasha Clare Senior has taken inspiration from the shimmer of the sea and from stitch craft and motifs from Rarotonga. "We need to protect our nature's treasures and make sure further generations can enjoy its beauty."

## Zelda Murray

### **Earrings**

faceted glass bead, glass beads, shell  
2018

Zelda Murray mixes modern man-made materials with natural ones.



# 15.

## Tarita Georgia Rahui

### **Trevor Patch dress**

wool suiting swatches, silk organza  
2018

Stitched together like a patchwork quilt from discarded materials this dress epitomises the skill and resourcefulness noted by early European navigators in the Pacific and today essential characteristics for environmental sustainability.

## Kiri Nathan

### **Woven kākahu**

PU textured cord, feathers  
2018

This contemporary iterations of a kākahu (Maori cloak) fuses contemporary western materials with Maori weaving techniques. Kiri's work demonstrates cultural integrity which is distinctive to Aotearoa, and her pieces have been gifted to visiting dignitaries such as former U.S President Barrack Obama and the Duke and Duchess of Sussex.



## Zelda Murray

### **Earrings**

aluminium, wood, sterling silver  
2019

## Pip Hartley and Tyla Vaeau @ Karanga Ink

**Custom ta moko and contemporary Samoan tatau**  
2019

Pip's vision for Karanga Ink is to "enable indigenous artists of Aotearoa and across the globe to express their cultural heritage and offer a platform to share knowledge, skills and cultural understanding." She and Tyla worked collaboratively on this piece.



# 16.

## Kiri Nathan

### **Akatea top, Porohita skirt, woven belt**

man-made fibres, silk, PU texture cord  
2018

Traditional Maori weaving is referenced in the top, made with modern, man-made fabric it highlights the meeting of two worlds, while the full length pleated skirt echoes the free moving piu piu, or perhaps the linear patterns found on Tukutuku panels. The woven belt highlights Kiri's commitment to updating this art form to ensure it endures.



## Neil Adcock

### **Pendant**

Mother of Pearl shell, brass, sterling silver, rubber  
2019

The unadorned mother of pearl shell celebrates its own natural beauty and also references its use for adornment throughout the ancient and new moana.

## Tyla Vaeau @ Karanga Ink

**Custom contemporary Samoan tatau**  
2019

Tyla says of her tatau, "This work reminds us that as people of Te Moana nui a Kiwa we walk every day with our ancestors. Our markings are part of a cultural continuum that spans thousands of years."



# window

## Vea Mafile'o

### **Monomono 2.0 – I Will Always Love You**

digital film (12.07 minutes)

2014

*Monomono* is a digitally sewn together piece of patterns and song documenting family, friends, celebrations, culture and 'ofa (love) – a visual recording to cherish as one would a woven mat, tapa or monomono.

"I don't know how to weave and I don't know how to make tapa. What I will pass on to my sons is my digital koloa (treasure)."