



Te Whare Pora  
mata aho collective

*Enjoy*





Te Whare Pora is a house of learning and is customarily a space for obtaining knowledge pertaining to fibre arts, primarily weaving. The atua of Te Whare Pora is Hineteiwaiwa who holds authority over female artistic expression.

We understand Te Whare Pora to be a state of being as opposed to a physical location with Elsdon Best describing it as a place where students are, 'clear headed and quick to grasp new knowledge'.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Best, E. (1898), *Clothing of the Ancient Māori*. p.267

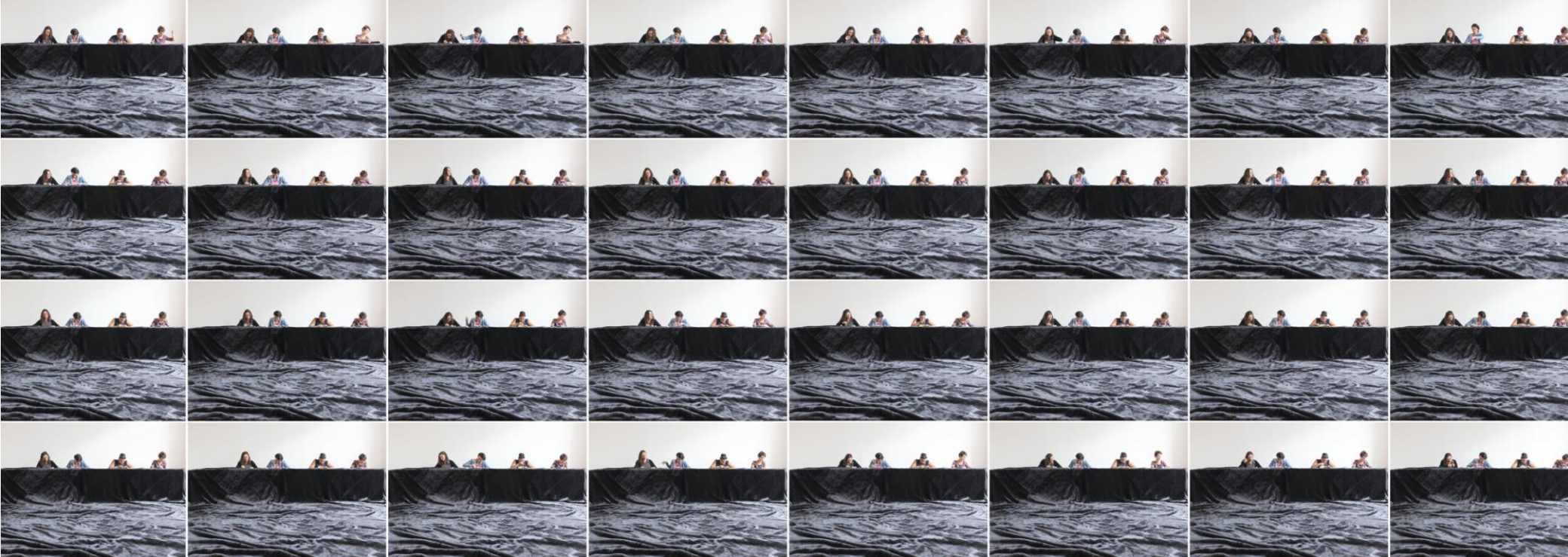


Even though the material is a synthetic acrylic, and not actually real "mink", they are called mink blankets to conjure up the image of something very, very soft. And that they are! Sleeping under a premium grade mink blanket or simply wrapping up in a throw blanket is very soothing and relaxing, so much in fact, that most people find the experience difficult to put into words.

*- minkblankets.com*









The exhibition Te Whare Pora employs the mink blanket as a vehicle for exploring customary Māori notions of wānanga, contemporary marae styles and wharenuī experiences. Whilst the mink blanket speaks of kitsch aesthetics and velvet paintings, the 'minkie' is a popular presence in marae throughout the country and has come to represent warm, plush beds within the wharenuī. These blankets also offer a poignant commentary on the current day economy as they are manufactured off-shore, using synthetic materials and embellished with identifiable kowhaiwhai patterns or the tino rangatiratanga flag.







Mata Aho Collective is a result of friendships forged and ideas established during wānanga. We all enjoy making art collectively as an alternative to our usual individual practice. It feels nice inside and stuff like that.

Sarah Hudson (Ngāti Awa, Ngāi Tūhoe) completed a Masters in Fine Arts with high distinction through Massey University, Wellington in 2010.

Terri Te Tau (Rangitāne ki Wairarapa) is currently working towards a PhD in Fine Arts at Massey University in Palmerston North. She holds a PGDip in Māori Visual Arts and a BMVA from Massey.

Erena Baker (Te Atiawa ki Whakarongotai, Ngāti Toa Rangātira) completed a Masters in Māori Visual Arts with First Class Honours through Massey University, Palmerston North in 2009.

Bridget Reweti (Ngāti Ranginui, Ngāi Te Rangi) completed a Bachelor of Māori Visual Arts degree with First Class Honours in 2009. Bridget is currently completing her Masters in Māori Visual Arts degree at Massey University, Palmerston North.



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