



Oceania Exhibition Photograph by Kate Whitley. Te Papa.

Oceania Exhibition

Te Papa Museum of New Zealand

Space
Cadet

Pohutukawa

Nero

Eternity

Tarot

The project was an exhibition entitled 'Oceania, early encounters', conceived to be presented at the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa during the Rugby World Cup 2011 for a period of 12 weeks. The exhibition covered a 700 square metres gallery space and featured approximately 250 artefacts representing the diversity of Te Papa's collections.

The exhibition's concept explored how Pacific, Maori and European people responded to each other through their encounters in the 18th and 19th centuries. The narrative comprised 5 chapters, each with sub-themes to tell the stories of the artefacts in detail.

The overarching design concept was to relay the notion of a Cabinet of Curiosities or Wunderkammer, which allowed artefacts to be displayed in eclectic juxtapositions, within early 20thC display cabinetry. The cabinetry itself was then placed within modest simple 'rooms' or 'islands' specifically constructed for the exhibition. Five rooms (1 per chapter), formed the overall landscape for the gallery, each room represented by a single colour.

Pivotal to the overarching spatial design concept was the use of colour for each room. Theory around the interpretation of colour was used to reinforce the storylines, artefacts and acknowledged the use and meaning of colour within the different cultures that make up the Pacific region.

The viewer experience was enhanced by immersing and surrounding them with colour and light to aid in promoting an emotional reaction to the artefacts and their environment.

The colours were also selected to complement the nature of the materials the artefacts were made from.

The colours selected to interpret each Chapter and the stories within were:

- People of the Sea: (Deep rich blues) knowledge, faith, wisdom, heaven, sea, sky - colour chosen: Resene Space Cadet
- Cultures in conflict: (Deep red) energy, determination, leadership, war, passion - colour chosen Resene Pohutukawa
- Contact: (ebony, blacks) - formality, death, authority, prestige, elegance -

colour chosen: Resene Nero

- Creative Encounters: (forest/deep greens) - growth, harmony, endurance, stability - colour chosen: Resene Eternity
- Spirit Worlds: (purples/ violets) - power, nobility, independence, dignity - colour chosen: Resene Tarot

The stories and rooms had to be clearly defined. A confident and sophisticated graphic design and identity was developed for the gallery to complement the overall colour palette.

The artefacts were similar to many others within the museum, so it was important that the overall narrative and the spatial environment was different from other exhibits that were on display in the Museum.

An important design challenge was to present traditional historical objects in a contemporary way while the complementary art exhibition at The City Gallery, Oceania, Imagining the Pacific, presented contemporary Pacific New Zealand art in a traditional way.

TUTŪTE PUEHU CULTURES IN CONFLICT AGANŪU

Nā ngā pūwhiri hō māu whakataunga mā te pūwhiri.
I whāi rātau rāi hōi, ngā tūwhiri rāi tūwhiri mā āiā nō
Te Māori-nō-g-āwhiri i tūwhiri rāi tūwhiri i tūwhiri.
Nā rātau ā rātau hōi i whakataunga, ā, ko te tūwhiri
whakataunga āi ngā māuwhiri hōi i whakataunga.

Kōwhiri i tūwhiri hōi i ngā māuwhiri hōi, ngā pūwhiri hōi
mā ngā whakataunga i ā rātau tūwhiri hōi, nā rātau i
tūwhiri hōi ko te kōwhiri i tūwhiri hōi. Ko te tūwhiri hōi
ngā māuwhiri hōi i tūwhiri hōi i ngā tūwhiri hōi mā ngā
māuwhiri hōi. I tūwhiri hōi mā te māuwhiri hōi i tūwhiri hōi
ngā kōwhiri, i tūwhiri hōi ngā rātau tūwhiri hōi i ngā māuwhiri
rātau hōi i ngā māuwhiri hōi.

Kōi māuwhiri hōi i tūwhiri hōi i tūwhiri hōi i tūwhiri hōi
tūwhiri hōi - ngā māuwhiri hōi i tūwhiri hōi, ngā māuwhiri hōi
ngā māuwhiri hōi, ngā māuwhiri hōi, ngā māuwhiri hōi
i ngā māuwhiri hōi.

The European and Pacific peoples who encountered
each other in the late 18th and into the 19th century came from
cultures unprepared and unprepared for war. They discovered
their warriors and often settled disputes by violence.

Tensions, misunderstandings, and grievances were
inevitable in their encounters, which sometimes ended
in armed conflict. Mostly, the opposing forces were the
local and the newcomers. But at times, the latter some
was more complex with various indigenous groups forming
strategic alliances with settlers.

In this section, you can explore some of these encounters -
the weaponry, motivations, and resolutions, as well as the
varied interpretations of events.





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Standard museum practices around low light-levels and protection of artefacts meant that careful consideration was needed with regard to the placement of these and the selection and use of surrounding colour.

Picture frame styles and supports for the artefacts were all designed and selected to complement not only the artefact but the concept of each story being told, so a high level of detail is considered throughout the entire project.

With a wall coverage of approximately 2000 square metres required, and in a short time-frame, Resene SpaceCote was used to ensure ease and efficiency of application and quality of finish. Resene SpaceCote was used to avoid light reflection, and allow depth of colour to be drawn-out relatively quickly and,

importantly in a museum environment, all off-gassing to be done quickly before artefacts can be installed.

Daily maintenance is required in high public areas and cleaning or patch painting with ease is important and Resene SpaceCote met these needs.

Dichroic lighting filters were used to provide more depth to sightlines, punctuate wall and floor surfaces and to make colours 'pop'.

A subtle sound-scape featuring music inspired from the marine environment played throughout the gallery to provide a multi sensory experience.

Oceania, early encounters received a very positive review by Peter Brunt in the Autumn issue of Art New Zealand 2012.



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Architectural Specifier: Lesley Fowler www.tepapa.govt.nz
Building Contractor: Watts & Hughes Ltd
www.whconstruction.co.nz
Painting Contractor: Vekart Ltd www.vekart.co.nz
Photographer: Kate Whitley
Other key Contributors: David Booth, Nick Clarkson; Te Papa





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in Photograph by Kate Whitley, Te Papa.



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 Resene Fire

