



Media Release

ARETA WILKINSON *WAKA HUIA*

17 October 2009 – 14 March 2010

Waka Huia is a treasure trove of precious jewellery, objects and stories created by leading New Zealand jeweller Areta Wilkinson.

A waka huia is a treasure box, traditionally used by Maori to store personal and special objects associated with adornment and spirituality. *Waka Huia* takes you on a journey through Wilkinson's life history, connecting each object to korero (stories) that reflect on her delight in the extraordinary nature of ordinary moments.

Each story is intensely personal, anchored to Wilkinson's own whanau, iwi and community but, through the act of storytelling she evokes a wider narrative that considers the role that everyday objects play in our collective cultural memory.

Waka Huia is a touring exhibition and as the collection travels to different venues across New Zealand, it is gradually reshaped by its journey. Taonga from Hawke's Bay Cultural Trust/ Ruawharo Ta-u-Rangi have inspired Wilkinson's latest series of works, recording the passage of this waka huia through Hawke's Bay Museum and Art Gallery.

In May this year Wilkinson received one of New Zealand's most prestigious awards for contemporary jewellery – TheNewDowse Gold Award. Hawke's Bay Museum and Art Gallery is delighted to be able to bring her work to the Hawke's Bay at this exciting time.

Exhibition Opening
Friday 16 October 2009 at 5.30pm

Waka Huia Stories
Saturday 17 October 2009 at 11am
Join Areta for an illustrated artist talk,
followed by a gallery tour
Century Theatre, free entry

above: *Nga whatu piataata 2009*
right: *Waka Huia 2009*
Photography, Studio La Gonda



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9 Herschell Street Napier Tel: 06 835 9247 www.hbmag.co.nz

For more media information please contact
Pam Joyce
Marketing Team Leader
P: (06) 835 9245
E: pjoyce@hbmag.co.nz