



CHRIS BRYANT AHURIRI AND THE SUBLIME RIPPLE

On February 14, Hawke's Bay Museum and Art Gallery is pleased to be opening their first exhibition dedicated to new work by artist Chris Bryant (Ngati Porou/Pakeha). Bryant presents his new series of sculpture as a challenge to his audience to consider the history of the local environment and the impact of the way we use the land.

Bryant takes an unashamedly polemic stance with his new work *Kuri dogged by progress*, which comments on the interference that humans have wrought on the Tutaekuri river, leading to what he sees as its almost complete destruction. This work is intended to draw attention to the impact of past actions on the present state of the environment which can all too often be brushed over in the impression of Hawke's Bay as a clean and idyllic landscape. This work also highlights the political tensions that have developed out of the controversial foreshore and seabed legislation – an issue which is close to the heart of Bryant's sculpture.

Chris Bryant is a rising talent in the new generation of contemporary Maori artists, with his early beginnings recognised by the Hawke's Bay Cultural Trust Ruawharo Tau-u-rangi with the Queen Elizabeth II Hawke's Bay Art Award (1993) and the Mary Vigor Brown Trust Award (1996). His sculpture has been included in several prestigious exhibitions nationally and internationally, and he has work included in the collection of Te Papa Tongarewa – Museum of New Zealand and as well as the Hawke's Bay Cultural Trust Ruawharo Tau-u-rangi.

In between working from his Napier studio, Chris Bryant is an art tutor at the Toimairangi – School of Maori art in Hastings and a member of Te Atinga which provides Maori visual culture advocacy.

15 FEBRUARY - 27 APRIL 2008

HAWKE'S BAY **MUSEUM & ART GALLERY** NAPIER
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Te Ahi-kainga-roa

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