





TEXTURED TANIWHA: SALT CLAY CREATION

Who made it?

The artwork above was made by Māori artist Tracy Keith (Ngāpuhi). It's called *Taniwha 2* and is part of the exhibition *Matatoki: Mata ā waka* that is currently on at Tauranga Art Gallery. Tracy is a ceramic artist who is highly skilled at working with uku (clay). He loves the way uku can take on different shapes and forms. To learn more about *Matatoki* check out our gallery website. See if you can find more of Tracy Keith's amazing ceramic sculptures on Google.

What you will need:

-  Salt Clay Recipe:
 - 1 cup flour
 - 1 cup salt
 - 1 cup water
 - Drop of cooking oil
 - Baking paper
-  Tools for mark making in the salt clay e.g. forks, spoons, kebab sticks, leaves, shells, pieces of Lego

Interesting fact!

Taniwha are often thought of as fierce and dangerous water creatures, but they are also known as guardians and protectors of the people who live in their area. Like clay, Taniwha can take on many different forms. I wonder what form your guardian Taniwha would take?

Get ready to make some art!

Step 1

The first step is to make your salt clay. To do this mix flour and salt together using measurements in the recipe. Gradually stir in the water until the mixture is soft and not too dry. Fold in a drop of oil to make mixture softer and smooth. Knead your clay for about 5 minutes. Use salt clay straight away or wrap in clingwrap until you are ready to make. *Note: Using your fingers to mix everything is fun and effective!*



Step 2

Roll out half of your salt clay to form a thick flat shape to work on. Use the rest of your clay to build up the shape of your Taniwha. Use your fingers and a butter knife/teaspoon to smooth the edges of your Taniwha form. Experiment with pressing a variety of tools such as forks, spoons, toothpicks, leaves or shells into your salt clay to create interesting textures and patterns. You can use a little water on your fingers to smooth out any rough edges.



Step 3

Once your artwork is finished, it's ready to bake in the oven or air-dry. *Note: Baking your creation will make it harder and more durable.* To bake: Place creation in a pre-heated oven at 130 – 150 degrees for about an hour (keep an eye on it to ensure it does not brown too much!). Make sure you have an adult to help you out for this part. To air-dry: Leave your creation in a warm dry spot. It will take a couple of weeks to completely dry.



Step 4

Extra ideas: Experiment by either sponge painting your clay when it has dried and/or varnishing it (clear nail polish works well!). Try adding colour with felt tip pens or coloured pencils. You can also experiment with your salt clay as you mix it. For a more textured clay use wholemeal flour rather than plain flour.



WE'D LOVE TO SEE YOUR MASTERPIECE! Ask an adult to help you take a picture and tag @taurangaartgallery, or send it for us to see at education@artgallery.org.nz

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