



tauranga art gallery










toi tauranga

MATATOKI INSPIRED SOAP CARVING

Who made it?

The artwork above is a detail from a carving by artist Jason Hina called *Rauru-ora*. Jason has carved this artwork out of totara and has also used pounamu (greenstone), paua and wax string. Jason is part of a group of Māori carvers called Matatoki. Matatoki means 'the blade of the adze, the cutting edge'. Sixteen artists from Matatoki have their work currently exhibited at Tauranga Art Gallery. Many of the artists went to a special carving school together in Rotorua. Check out some of their amazing art on our Facebook page @Tauranga Art Gallery

What you will need:

-  Paper
-  Pencil
-  Bar of soap
-  Scissors
-  Plastic knife / butter knife
-  Ice block stick
-  Small shells or stones (optional)
-  Kebab stick or toothpicks
-  Old toothbrush

Fancy art word!

Whakairo is the Māori word for the traditional art of carving. Originally, tools like adzes and chisels were made from pounamu (greenstone) to carve wood, stone or bone.

Get ready to make some art!

Step 1

Trace around your soap bar with a pencil onto paper. Now draw a simple design onto that traced shape and cut it out.



Step 2

Lay the paper over your soap bar (on the smoothest side). Now copy over your drawing again with a pencil – this should transfer your design through the paper onto the soap.



Step 3

Remove the paper and use a toothpick or kebab stick to go over your picture or design to make it easier to see.



Step 4

It's time to start carving (whakairo) now, use some of your homemade tools to carve out certain areas and create texture. Your old toothbrush will be handy to dust away loose bits of soap as you carve.



How to finish off your artwork

Step 5

Continue carving until some of your areas are raised up and stand out.



Step 6

When you have finished carving, you can press in small bits of shell, tiny stones or any other little decorative bits you have around home. And you're all done 😊 Ka pai!



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

tauranga art gallery

toī tauranga

