

The image features a vibrant orange and white checkered pattern, reminiscent of a gingham fabric. A thin, dark blue border with small 'x' marks runs along the edges of the pattern. The word "mother" is written in a large, bold, black, lowercase sans-serif font across the center of the image.

mother

M/other features work across a range of disciplines, allowing the artists involved to engage in critical and expansive korero, exploring issues that revolve around the maternal experience in Aotearoa.

There is value in working towards expanding definitions of motherhood. By raising awareness around the diversity of ways that motherhood can exist, exhibitions like *M/other* can encourage self-identification, self-expression and self-care.

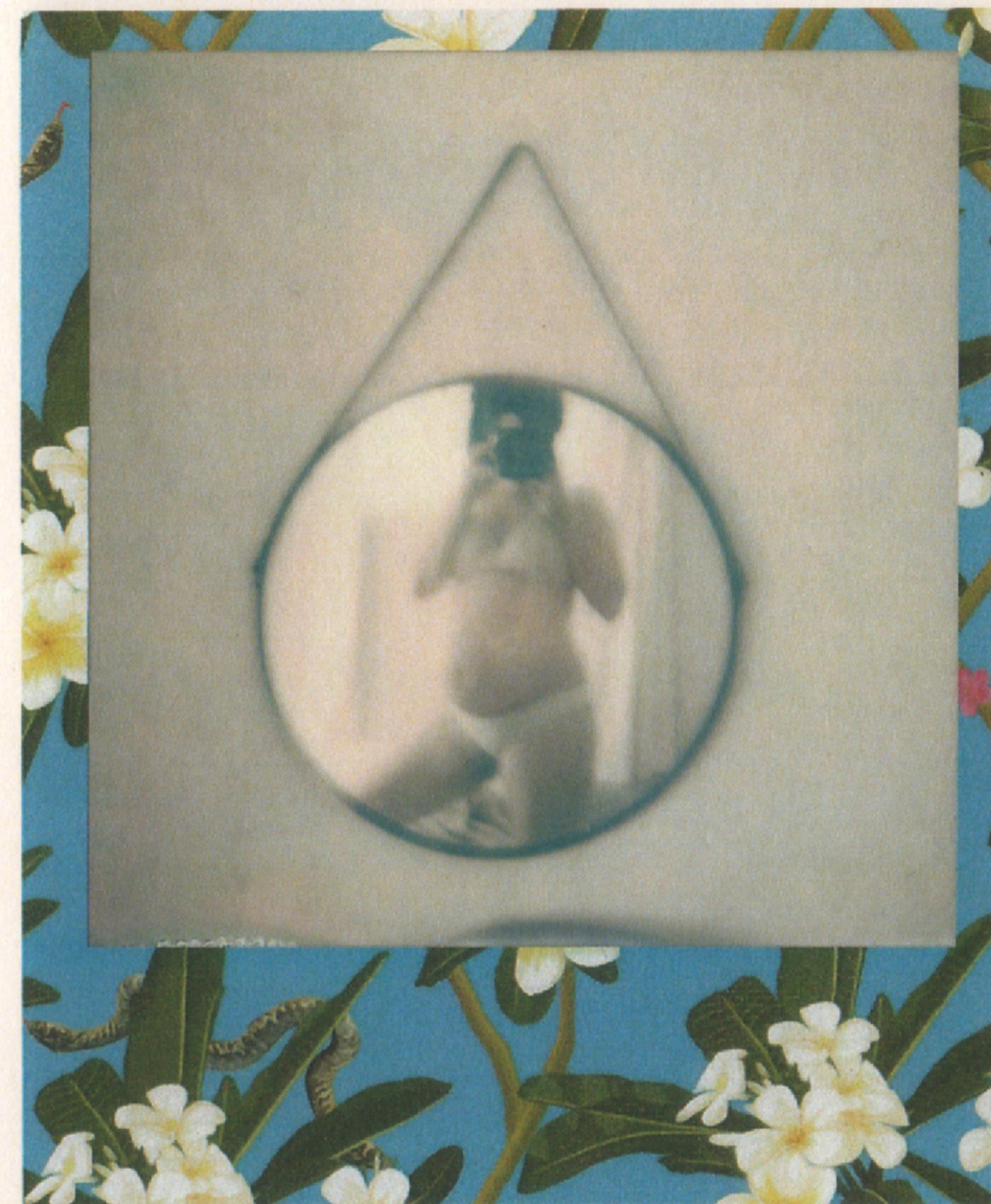
Through diverse experiences and lenses, artists, Jasmine Togo-Brisby, Rhonda Halliday and Tash Helasdottir-Cole evoke and honour intergenerational matrilineal knowledge. Their work speaks to a deep connectedness with the women around them, women from the past, women from the present and women of the future.

Installation artist Turumeke Harrington and photographer Erena Baker communicate the complicated juggling, and at times necessary merging of children and professional life.

Justine Walker, Claire Harris and Zoe Thompson-Moore bring attention to the multiplicity of roles that women occupy through a juxtaposition of some uneasy themes. Expressed with materials familiar to domestic settings, they speak to the instability of fertility, meditative making processes and unpacking societal expectations of women.

Each artist has brought a powerful vulnerability to *M/other*. Of particular note is Kararaina Toi, whose work expresses her very personal, yet often under-acknowledged grief after a miscarriage.

The artwork showcased in *M/other* generously shares some deeply personal experiences to offer an inclusive interpretation of motherhood and maternal roles. Every piece in this show has deeply resonated with my own experience in the last five years and I hope the wisdom shared can be as enriching for others. I wish to thank all of the artists participating in '*M/other*', me aro koe ki te hā o Hineahuone, ngā mihi nunui – *M/other* Curator, Sarah Hudson.



Above: Leala Faleseuga "Vessel" (2015) Polaroid series

Left: Turumeke Harrington "Māmā, come play with me" (2019) installation drawing

M/other

What do you think of when you hear the word 'mother'?

This question has occupied the minds of 11 artists from around the country, who have been brought together to critically discuss an inclusive interpretation of motherhood, mothering and maternal roles. Expressed through moving image, photography, sculpture and installation; the artists share both a radical vulnerability and empowered strength with the Whakatāne community. M/other evokes diverse themes, such as intergenerational maternal knowledge and parenting through a queer lens; as well as exploring divisions of labour and mātauranga Māori notions of creation.

Erena Baker · Leala Faleseuga · Rhonda Halliday · Turumeke Harrington

Claire Harris · Tash Helasdottir-Cole · Zoe Thompson-Moore

Jasmine Togo-Brisby · Kararaina Toi · Justine Walker

M/other has been developed by Sarah Hudson, with support from Creative NZ.

20 April 2019 to 7 August 2019

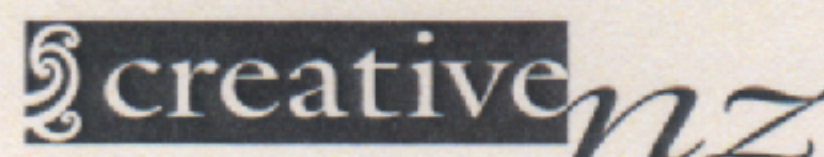
Brookfields Lawyers Gallery and
Whakatāne Community Board Gallery

Te Kōputu a te whanga a Toi –
Whakatāne Library and Exhibition Centre

Cover image credit: Zoe Thompson-Moore

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ARTS COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND TOI AOTEAROA

