

Yesterday Tomorrow

Weaving Our Ways in Canvas & Waiata

Radha Sahar

Woven canvases inspired by *Yesterday Tomorrow*, Porirua City's official song, composed by the artist



Living in Porirua, a 'City of Cultures', I note that our *Festival of the Elements* is emerging as a forefront bi-cultural & multi-cultural celebration of Waitangi Day. So it gave me great pleasure to gift my song to the city and to hear Rawiri Toia sing it here with such power on our National Day.

Reflecting on our past, and wanting to be part of the healing isn't comfortable, and these works are a beginning for me. My ancestors are from Scotland, and many of my friends are tangata whenua. So in canvas and song I reach out to honour them all, the beautiful land that supports us, and the sea that carried our waka and ships to these shores.

I am enjoying working on cut & twisted canvases, and recently weaving the canvases. These reflect my strong desire to delve beneath surface appearances. These works look different from every angle, and are especially interesting to view from hard right or hard left.

Several of the works are interactive in other ways – inviting people to take part weaving, moving canvases pieces, or writing their feelings about the Treaty of Waitangi and inserting them into pockets in the painting.

Six pieces of music accompany this exhibition, including the theme song *Yesterday Tomorrow*, available as a CD single at the gallery. I want to thank Te Puoho Katene for contributing his words '*He mahi, kotahi tatou*' to the song, and to Aunty Tawai Te Rangi who wrote the lyrics of *Harakeke E* and *Waiata Mihimihi*. Aunty is Kai Arahī for our company, UCA Music, and I have been blessed to work with her on several projects.

Throughout Aotearoa, many people, both Māori and Pakeha, are similarly making efforts towards healing our ways. There is much to be done. But in working at it, we're blessed, through the sincerity of our intentions, to be sustained by Spirit, always reminding us that, at the deepest level of our existence, though we are two peoples, we are one family.

Upstairs Gallery, 69 Kenepuru Drive, Porirua, Tel 237-6865 - above Art Frames, next to Moore Wilsons
Mon – Fri 9.00am – 5.30pm Sat 9.00am – 2.00pm Feb 25th – Mar 30th