

MĀWHITIWHITI:

TOWARDS A DEFINITION

*'The term māwhitiwhiti...
when applied to weaving
and plaiting mean[s] to
cross over strands of
material'*

'The Art of Māori Weaving: the eternal
thread,
Miriam Evans, Ranui Ngarimu



Within the context of this seminar series the term is used as a metaphor. It signifies crossovers in culture, time and distance. It aims to capture a sense of the movement of objects and cultural values from Asia south into Oceania and eventually Aotearoa

MĀWHITIWHITI

Māori /Chinese Crossovers



IN NZ VISUAL
ART

DR RANGIHĪROA PĀNOHO

Tues. 24 August: **Shared Cultural Icons**

Tues. 31 August: **Māori/Chinese artists
in Aotearoa**

6.00-7.30 PM TE WHARE WANANGA ROOM, LEVEL 3
AUCKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY 44-46 LORNE ST, CITY
TICKETS: \$120 - TWO SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

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Chinese\Māori Crossovers
Te Whare Wananga Room

Auckland Public Library
44-46 Lorne Street
Auckland City



Dr Pānoho, Intangible Cultural Heritage, ISSC, UNESCO & Hemispheric Institute, NYU, Belo Horizonte, Brazil, 2005



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2010 seminar presentations

Māwhitiwhiti: Crossover

Tuesday 24 August - 6:00 - 7:30pm - Shared Cultural Icons

What kinds of connections can be made between Chinese\Māori culture? There is scientific evidence for Māori origins in Taiwan and points of connection in the South East Asian peninsula. This lecture looks further inland to Neolithic China. Is it possible that particular status objects can be traced from the material culture of the early China mainland to the most southern Austronesian outpost in Aotearoa? *Taonga* 'treasures' in both stone and fibre are selected to test some obvious visual affinities between the two cultures. Might it also be possible that particular value systems and spiritual sensibilities continue to connect Aotearoa and its Pacific rim parent culture?

Tuesday 31 August - 6:00 - 7:30pm - Māori\Chinese Artists

This presentation explores some practical ways in which Māori\Chinese artists are demonstrating links back to their Chinese heritage through their art. Rather than tracing hypothetical connections these artists demonstrate tangibly the impact of both Chinese and indigenous Māori culture and values on their art. Particular art objects and statements are examined to trace these influences.

COMING UP: The Business of Māori Art

Who are the major movers and shakers in the current Māori art market? Who decides value, financial and cultural, in the Māori art market. What makes a photograph of a *hei tiki* more valuable than the real greenstone *taonga*? This revealing presentation looks at the stronger role patronage is playing in the type of art that is currently being critically approved, sponsored and purchased.