

# (UN)Registered Savages of Aotearoa: Mata Makawa – Mata Vou

23 May - 16 August 2020

In the exhibition *(UN)Registered Savages of Aotearoa: Mata Makawa – Mata Vou*, artists Ole Maiava and Daren Kamali have marked a masi (Fijian tapa cloth). Masi is handmade from the inner bark of the paper mulberry tree. Seeds, soil and leaves are made into a fine powder and mixed with water to make a dye. Maiava and Kamali’s masi is marked with both recycled and natural materials. As well as freehand the artists also used a stencil to create their marks.

Pacific Island communities use different marks and images to tell stories about their culture, whakapapa (genealogy) and history. Shapes are repeated to create various patterns. For example masi patterns can be made up of lines and geometric shapes but can also be made from symbols of nature.

## ACTIVITY ONE

In the empty space on this page, create your own design. Use simple shapes and symbols inspired by your own family, culture, places you spend time or where you have lived. Are there patterns or shapes you have grown up with? Have you grown up near a forest, mountain, river or ocean? What shapes could you draw to represent that place?

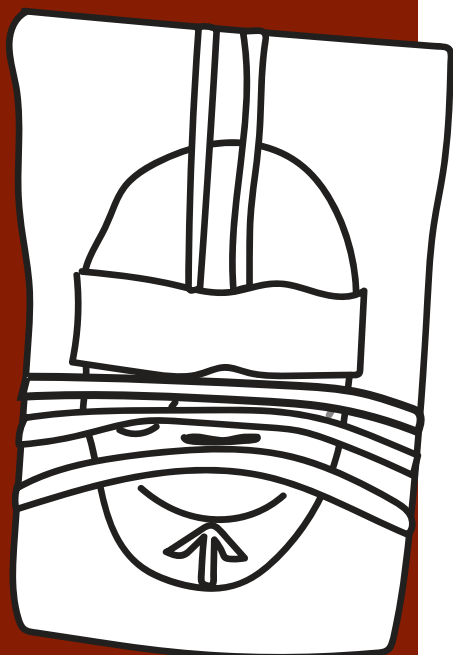
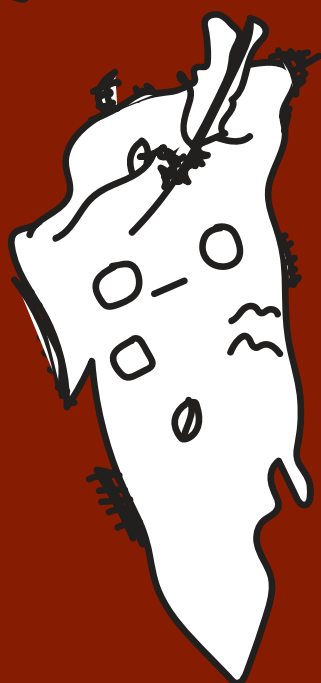
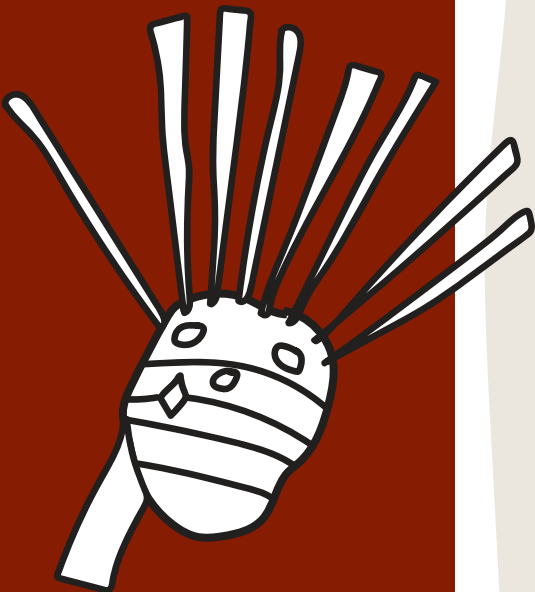
Can you repeat the shapes you draw to make a pattern?



2.

## ACTIVITY TWO

Find these masks in the gallery. Colour each mask as you see them on the wall.



3.

## ACTIVITY THREE

Hair can tell a story about one's culture and identity. In ancient Fijian traditions, warriors wore wigs called ulu cavu, made from human hair. Ulu cavu were made to be worn during times of mourning, warfare or worship. Since 1997, Daren Kamali collected his own hair to create his own ulu cavu. Kamali is looking to make a modern-day version of the ancient tradition.

Who are the warriors in your life? Think of three people that are special to you. It could be your parents, a sibling, grandparent or school friend. Write their name in each bubble, draw their hair below and describe what their hair looks like. Is their hair long or short? Is it curly, wavy or straight? Do they have a fringe? What colour is it? Are they similar to one another?

's hair is

's hair is

's hair is

4.

## ACTIVITY FOUR

In ancient times, Fijian masks were worn during ceremonies, rituals, warfare and celebrations. The masks in the exhibition are inspired by each artist's connection to their family, Fijian culture and the world around them. The masks are made with natural materials including coconut husk, nīkau branch, feathers and driftwood. These materials were collected by the artists.

Go out into nature. You could visit your backyard or a local park. Collect natural items you see on the ground such as leaves, grass, sticks, acorns, rocks, daisies or flower petals.

Arrange the collected items inside, on a flat surface to make a self-portrait. Be creative! A leaf could be the shape of your eye, a pile of grass for hair or sticks to form the shape of your mouth.

Finally, in the space below, draw what your self-portrait looked like.

