

Letter to the Centre

*Bare foot, bare boned
Your open doors and open hearts
Open Arts and minds.
Moving from survival to thrival,
In your embrace my voice, my hope
Seed sown by wild souls
Find themselves unfurl, unfold
Products of wondering bubble out of these windows.
Sitting in a circle
We can
Believe in the change,
outside the square.
Green lights at the end of piers
Extend our horizons
We become pioneers
A different way to think
A different way of being
Boats beating against currents
You are like coming up for air,
Or making one's way out of thick bush.
Your open-palmed, creative-critical engagement
gives a hand up to all.
Thank you for being a place for daydreamers who
resist.
You criticise to make lives better
Criticism could never be more creative.
The muffled tones are lifted,
We can hear
the world again.*

Poem written by Centre staff and affiliates as part of their Strategic Planning day 2021.

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Rob Gardiner

Our partners

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Our friends

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**EDUCATION AND
SOCIAL WORK**
CENTRE FOR ARTS AND
SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

Centre for Arts and Social Transformation

Just and equitable worlds through the arts



Just and Equitable Worlds Through the Arts

Central to critical citizenship and participatory democracy, the arts accept and disrupt the chaos of post-normal times, awakening our senses to the joy and wonder of becoming more fully human.



Children watch a puppet show in Syria, 2020. Photo credit: Walid Abo Rashed

In partnership with artists, educators, academics, policy makers and communities, the Centre carries out research on the possibilities of the arts for social transformation.

What do we want to be known for?

- ◆ Original, creative, and world-leading contributions to research that deeply explores the arts and is inspired by our place and our histories in Aotearoa and the Pacific
- ◆ Community engaged practice-based research by artist academics that positively impacts lives
- ◆ Ambitious, critical, and playful research that addresses wicked problems

Strategic priorities

- ◆ Lead local, national and international conversations on the nature of the creative process and environments
- ◆ Expand our understanding of the arts as holistic pedagogies of compassion, critical empathy and care
- ◆ Use participatory arts-based research methods in inter- and transdisciplinary studies



Te Rito Toi: The Twice Born Seed panel discussion in Auckland, 2020. Photo credit: Andrew Lau

- ◆ Collaborate on policy development on the arts and social transformation in Aotearoa
- ◆ Open pathways for Māori and Pasifika academics and artists to lead research valuing indigenous ways of knowing
- ◆ Recruit, nurture and retain outstanding researchers
- ◆ Champion the arts as ways for communities to heal and flourish

Our values



6 month old embodying the arts, 2020. Photo credit: Katy Perez

The Centre hosts the Creative Wellbeing Alliance - Te Ora Auaha, the Creative Schools Index, the Creative Thinking Project and Te Rito Toi.