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.

Our patrons
Bob Dylan
Rob Gardiner

Our partners
Chartwell Trust
Sir John Kirwan Foundation
UNESCO NZ
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International Teaching Artist Collaborative (ITAC)

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Cover photo courtesy of Ōpoho School, Year 1 and 2 - Teaspoon of Light.
**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.

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
- 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

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**Our values**

- Possibilities
- Creativity
- Challenge
- Wonder
- Laughter
- Critical citizenship
- Passion
- Collaboration

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**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

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The Centre hosts Te Rito Toi and the Creative Schools Index, and serves as the New Zealand Hub for the International Teaching Artist Collaborative.