

## 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  
Asian Family Services  
International Teaching Artist Collaborative (ITAC)

## Our friends

Creative New Zealand  
The Big Idea  
The Arts Foundation  
Arts Access Aotearoa  
Drama New Zealand  
Massive Theatre Company  
NZEI Te Riu Roa  
New Zealand Principals' Federation  
WeCreate  
Te Taumata Toi-a-Iwi

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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*



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.



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



CASTaways - members of the Centre for Arts and Social Transformation.

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