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BEYOND THE CORNERS OF OUR WHARE

A CONCEPTUAL MĀORI RESPONSE TO STATE SURVEILLANCE IN AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

TERRI TE TAU

2015

An Exegesis presented in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Creative Arts
Dedicated to my creative and courageous niece

Iris Maiata Pouao

Auahatia te toi i te mana o ngā rangi

2007 - 2014
ABSTRACT

This exegesis is a response to surveillance undertaken during ‘Operation 8,’ an anti-terror investigation carried out by the New Zealand Police in 2007. As an artist within the community subjected to the surveillance action, I was motivated to explore how an interdisciplinary arts practice, informed by Māori concepts and cosmo-genealogy, might respond to state surveillance.

Power relations and surveillance are examined by juxtaposing a Māori world-view against state sanctioned surveillance of its citizens. A creative practice-based inquiry was utilised to explore intersections and differences between these two perspectives.

The creative components of this research project comprise a science fiction literary component, sculpture, installation and video. The project is informed by art and literature that positions the research within the local but contextualised against global developments in surveillance.

Māori concepts of mana, tapu, mauri, whanaungatanga and mana motuhake with a primary focus on hau provide a foundation for this research guided by the whakataukī (proverb):

‘He kokonga whare e kitea, he kokonga ngākau e kore e kitea.’
The corners of a house can be seen, the corners of the heart cannot be seen.

When viewed within the context of surveillance the whakataukī asks how we are affected when the intimate private lives of individuals and community – the corners of the house - are visible to those with whom we have no direct relationship.

The second aspect of the whakataukī refers to those attributes that are unseen. The qualities that surveillance technology cannot quantify; internal feelings and intentions. The heart as a hidden space is explored in this exegesis as a site of resistance, where the capacity of surveillance technique to interpret values of an individual and community are questioned.
HE MIHI

E mihi ana ki a koutou e whai ana i ngā ara o te mana motuhake me te tino rangatiratanga, nā koutou te puehu i tutū kia oho ake ai ngāi tātou te Māori. Val, Tame, Rangi, Em, Urs, koutou ko Ati he mihi mutunga kore ki a koutou katoa.

Ki ōku pou ārahi, Professor Bob Jahnke, Professor Huia Jahnke koutou ko Dr Darryn Joseph. I whakapau werawera mō te āta wetewete te iti me te rahi o ngā mahi i oti i a au i nga tau e whā kua pahure ake. Mei kore ake koutou hei arataki tēnei waka ki uta ka ngaro noa i te moana.

Nā te Ryoichi Sasakawa Young Leaders Fellowship Fund (Sylff) ngā huruhuru i homai ki tēnei rangahau kia rere ai pērā te manu, e mihi ana. Pērā hoki ki Te Kunenga ki Pūrehuroa mō te karahipi whakamutunga me MAI ki Massey mō te Postgraduate Award. Nā te aroha o te Earle Trust Grant i whanakehia Te Hau ki te Papaioea mō te whakaaturanga mutunga mō tēnei PhD.

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Ki ngā pūkenga whakapīata waka Smash Palace koutou ko Classic Custom Trim e mihi ana mō ngā mahi i oti tahi i a tātou mō Unregistered and Unwarranted. Ki a Cameron Jewellery he mihi nui mō ō kōrero hangarau e hāngai ana ki Pāua to the People. He mihi hoki ki a Rob Thorne mō te puoro i roto i te ataata Te Āhua o te Hau ki te Papaioea.

Ki te pū o taku ao, ki āku tamariki, arohanui. Mei kore ko koutou kāhore e kore kua oti rawa i a Mama ēnei mahi i tērā tau. Heoi anō ngā mihi nui mō ngā awhi me ngā paruparu i mahue mai i a koutou i ngā kokonga katoa o te whare. I whakaae katoa a Mama ki tērā ō ngā whakataukī, he taonga te tamaiti.

Ko āku mihi mutunga, ko āku mihi mātua, ki te tokorua i kaha hāpai i taku ao i te ao i te pō. Ahakoa ngā wero nui, kei reira kōrua ki te whakataua i te waka ki uta. Ki tako teina Tania, ko koe te āiotanga waenga pū ō te āwhiowhio nā tō ngākau māhaki i oti i a au ēnei mahi, arohanui. Ki a Teanau, e te tau o taku ate, ahakoa te āhara, kei reira koe, ahakoa te hōhā, kei reira tonu koe. Arohanui.
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**PRELUDE**

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