

## **Timeless Toi: Looking at Art in Aotearoa**

### **An Educational Resource for Years 4–7 (NZC Levels 2–4)**

#### **What is Timeless Toi?**

*Timeless Toi* is an art exhibition that looks at famous New Zealand artists in a new way. It helps us ask:

- Who made these artworks?
- What stories do they tell?
- Who is missing from these pictures?
- How can we see the land, people, and history in a different light?

This learning resource will help you explore the artists, think about their choices, and create your own art inspired by what you see.

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#### **Learning Goals – What You'll Do**

- Explore how New Zealand artists show people and places.
  - Talk about how art can show different points of view.
  - Make your own artworks that tell stories about where you come from and what you care about.
  - Work with others to ask big questions about the past and the future.
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#### **Meet the Artists: Questions to Explore**

##### **Charles Goldie**

Goldie painted many portraits of Māori people. His paintings are very detailed and serious.

- Do you think the people in the paintings got to choose how they were shown?
  - What does it mean to paint someone from a different culture?
  - Can something be beautiful and still be unfair?
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##### **Lois White**

White painted stories with strong women, angels, and scenes from everyday life.

- What kind of stories do her paintings tell?

- Do you think she was trying to make a point about women?
  - What symbols can we use to tell stories in our own art?
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### **Colin McCahon**

McCahon used words and shapes to show his feelings about life, death, and the land.

- What do the words in his paintings make you feel or think?
  - How does he show Aotearoa's landscape?
  - Should artists think about who the land belongs to?
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### **Toss Woollaston**

Woollaston used quick, bold brushstrokes to paint hills, trees, and light.

- How does his painting make the land feel alive?
  - Can you show feelings with your brushwork?
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### **Doris Lusk**

Lusk painted landscapes with roads, dams, and machines.

- Why do you think she added buildings and power stations?
  - What's changing in the places you know?
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### **Nigel Brown**

Brown uses pictures like ferns, houses, and gumboots to talk about being a New Zealander.

- What pictures would you use to show who *you* are?
  - How can symbols help tell a story?
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### **Philip Trusttum**

Trusttum paints fun, busy pictures of toys, pets, sports and life at home.

- How can everyday things be art?
- What do you love in your world that you could paint?

### **Ivy Fife**

Fife painted people and places in Christchurch. Her paintings are calm and quiet.

- What do her paintings say about ordinary life?
  - Why is it important to show everyday people in art?
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### **Bill Sutton**

Sutton painted the Canterbury landscape with big skies and bold colours.

- What does the land look like where you live?
  - How does Sutton make the land feel strong or special?
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### **John Weeks**

Weeks used shapes and colour to make artworks that looked new and modern.

- How can you use shape and colour to show ideas?
  - Can art still show a place, even if it's not realistic?
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## **Creative Activities for the Classroom**

### **1. Draw Your Place**

Think of a place that is special to you — it could be your neighbourhood, marae, beach, or even your backyard.

- Draw it with care. What do you include?
- What does this place mean to you?

### **2. Symbol Self-Portrait**

Make a drawing or collage using symbols that tell people about who you are.

- You can use clothes, animals, colours, or objects.
- Think about what makes you *you*.

### **3. Art Detective**

Choose one artist from the list. Ask:

- What do I notice first?
- What do I wonder about?
- How might this artwork feel to someone else?

#### 4. Share & Discuss

In groups, share your favourite artist from *Timeless Toi*.

- What do you like about their art?
- What do you think they wanted people to feel or think?

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#### Teacher Notes: Curriculum Connections

NZC Area	Learning Focus
<b>Visual Arts</b>	Understanding how artworks reflect ideas, places, and identities. Exploring techniques. Making and responding to art.
<b>Social Sciences</b>	Exploring identity, cultural heritage, and fairness. Asking questions about history and representation.
<b>English</b>	Building visual literacy and critical thinking through discussion and reflection. Describing, comparing, and presenting ideas.

For Class Bookings please email [gallery@timdc.govt.nz](mailto:gallery@timdc.govt.nz) Timeless Toi opens Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May and runs until July 13<sup>th</sup>. Guided and Unguided visits are available.