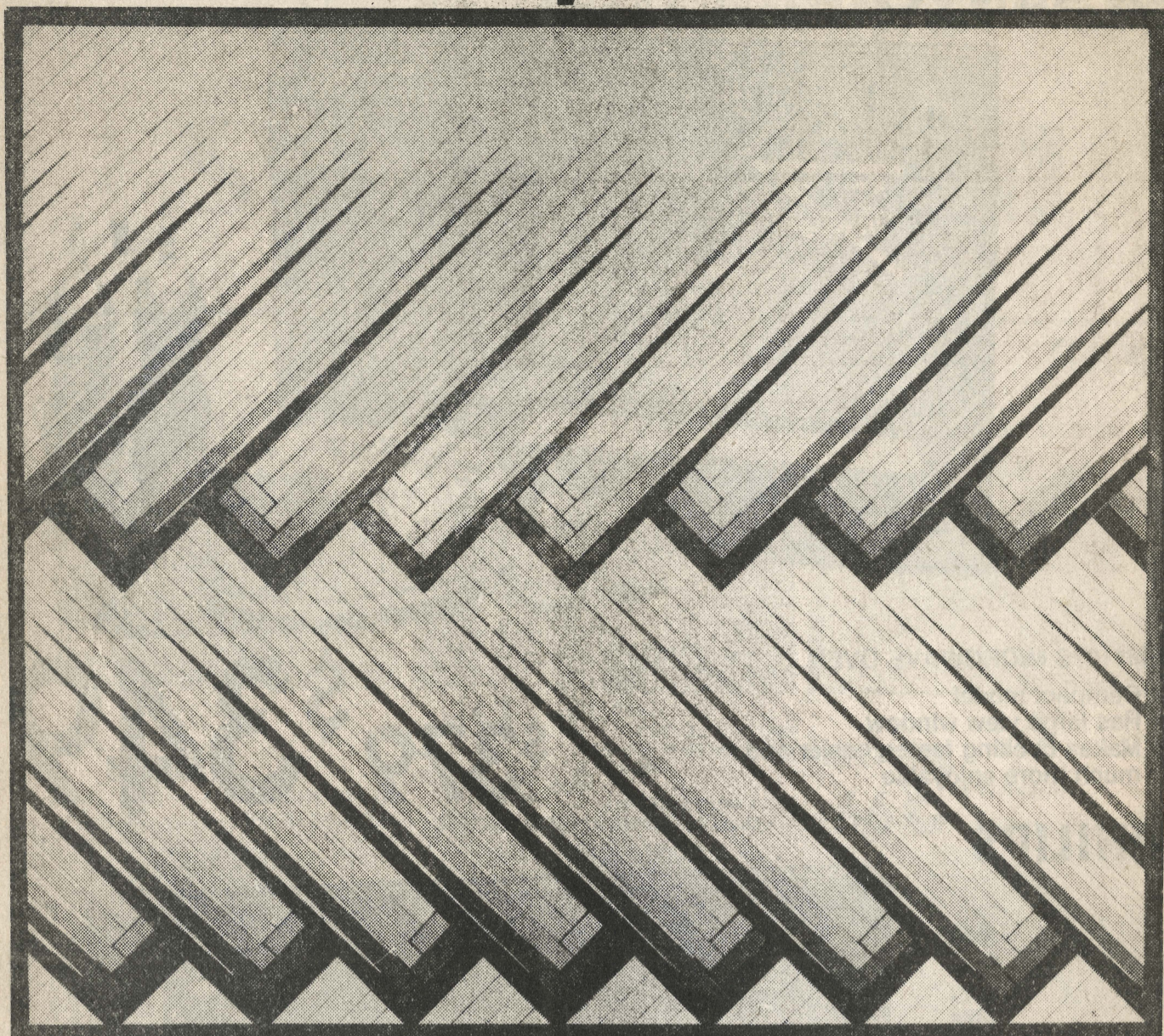


Scene today



Third painting in a series based on flax, by Toi Maihi.

Fibres, stones, pots in Maori show

MAORI women artists throughout the North Island have collected their work and staged a joint exhibition in three centres.

The Karanga Karanga exhibition was sparked by the Dowse Gallery exhibition of Maori men carving in stone, the water and clay collaborative exhibition at the Wellington City Art Gallery and the realisation that Maori women must gather to support each other's endeavours, say the Auckland co-ordinator, Toi Maihi.

Despite the three far-flung venues — the Gisborne Museum and Arts Centre, Wellington City Art Gallery and Auckland's Fisher Gallery — all works on display are part of the Karanga exhibition, she says.

Of the 65 artists taking part, 30 are in Auckland and the Fisher Gallery sports artworks on its walls, floor and ceiling. The show runs there until June 4.

Clothing, paintings, pottery, installations, weaving, jewellery, sculpture, photography and poetry are all represented.

In the foyer a plaited-flax hanging sculpture coils around a bed of smooth stones, each signed by the participating artists, Toi Maihi's kites flutter against the ceiling while viewers turn the pages of Maureen Lander's books that combine words and textural pictures using wool, feathers, paint and plant fibres.

Lander's installation dominates a sideroom. The glossy black ashes of

a cooking fire have an almost imperceptible spiral pattern, while hanging strands of polythene and string represent rising smoke and the area is ringed by rough stones.

In the main gallery, a tree branch is hung with ceramic hue (gourds) which look like smooth soft blue, cream and dust-coloured pears. At the foot of the tree are round glazed hue and two cigar-shaped waka huia with lids and string handles.

Hiraina Polson and Paparangi Reid contributed outstanding burnished pottery, none of which is for sale, much to the chagrin of many a gallery visitor.

ALL glowing russet brown, some sported small inset paua shells while many featured traditional Maori motifs. One particularly clever piece had the peaceful face of a young Maori woman inside the pot, her clay hair draped over the rim.

On the far wall are paintings of old Maori cave drawings, faithfully recorded by Merania Paora. When she returned from working in London in 1949, she visited Timaru to see the Maori cave drawings there and found several rock drawings had been tampered with. Some had been hewn from the rock and shipped overseas.

She spent three years recording the drawings, which according to carbon dating, are at least 500-years-old and originally drawn with charcoal soaked in oil.

ings, drawing, etchings by the 18th century Venetian viewpainter until June 1; Aspects of Recent New Zealand Art: Sculpture I, until May 25; water-colours, drawing, oils by Frances Hodgkins, until June 15.

■ AUCKLAND INSTITUTE AND MUSEUM, Oro del Peru: Treasures of the Incas, until June 2; jewellery by Kobi Bosshard, until May 31.

■ AUCKLAND SOCIETY OF ARTS, Caltex Art Award, until May 23.

■ DENIS COHN GALLERY, Dream Windows: new work by Carole Shephard, until May 23.

■ NEW VISION GALLERY, recent sculpture by Peter Nicholls; Foliage Photographs, by Peter Black, until May 23.

■ RKS ART, Columnar



Wool wall hanging by Maude Cook.



Burnished pottery, by Hiraina Polson and Paparangi Reid.



Rock drawing painting by Merania Paora.

at the galleries with Marianne Norgaard

Peopillics: terracotta developments, by Barry Brickell; paintings by John Hoby, until June 6.

■ ARTIS GALLERY, Fifteen recent works on paper by Milan Mrkusich, until May 30.

■ SUE CROCKFORD GALLERY, paintings by John Reynolds, until May 30.

■ KITCHENER GALLERY, original paintings from the children's books of Maui Sage, by Peter Gossage; New Zealand paintings and graphics, by Warwick Johnson, until June 6.

■ DIVERSIONS, Box/

Chest/Drawers: mixed-media group show, until May 31.

■ ABERHART NORTH GALLERY, Fifteen recent oils on paper, by Peter Ireland, until June 6.

■ TWELVE POTTERS, joint show, until May 24.

■ POTS OF PONSONBY, Winter Dialogue, by potter Chris Mules and printmaker Roger Mortimer, until June 7.

■ HANDWEAVING GALLERY, Rapt in Wraps, handwoven wraps by various weavers, until May 24.

■ VICTORIAN ROSE,

antiques toys, teddies and miniatures, until May 25.

■ THE WHEEL AND THE LOOM, porcelain figures by Karen Kennelly, until May 23.

■ WHITECLIFFE GALLERIES, Coastal Images, by John Horner, until May 24.

■ PUMPHOUSE, embroidery by North Shore Embroiderers Guild and hand-painted china by Nyola Rickman, until May 30.

■ STRAWBERRY HILL, hand-painted porcelain roses by various artists, until June 11.