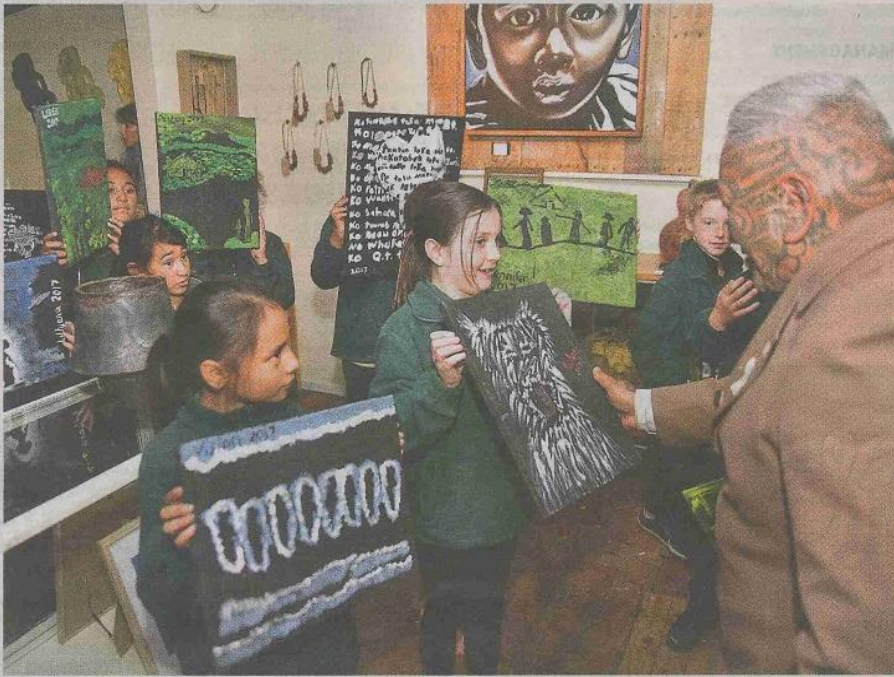
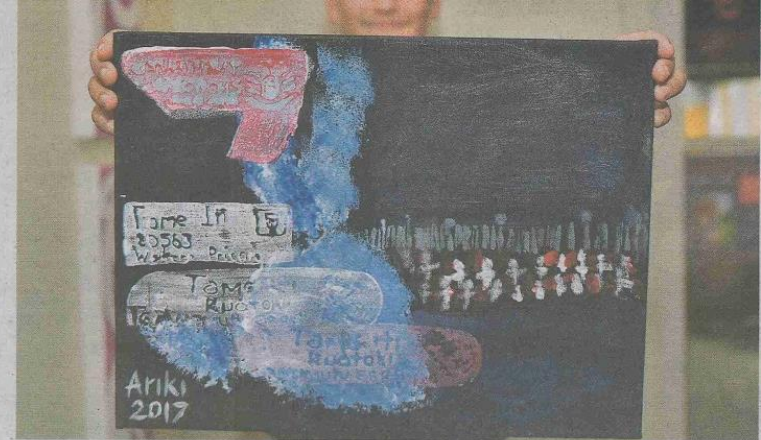


Iti issues invite to young artists



ARTIST Tame Iti is so impressed by the work of young creatives from James Street School he has invited them to exhibit their pieces at the Taneatua Gallery. Vision Valach and Rachael Kepa are among the students who have recreated Mr Iti's work as part of their school inquiry into artists and "how they inspire us".

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Photo Louis Klaassen D5529-03



DETAIL: Arika Roozendaal tries to capture the detail of Iti's work. D5529-21

Students invited to exhibit work

Kathy Forsyth
Education reporter



AMAZING: Riley Ward put a lot of work into his creation. D5529-19

SOME of Whakatane's young creatives impressed artist Tame Iti so much with their work last week that he invited them to exhibit their pieces at Taneatua Gallery.

The eight- and nine-year-old students – years 4 and 5 – recreated Mr Iti's work as part of their school inquiry this term into artists and "how they inspire us".

When they visited Mr Iti at the gallery, they showed him their canvases and he suggested they exhibit their work there.

The students' art teacher, Amber Simpson, said she chose Mr Iti as the artist for her class to study because 80 percent of her students are Maori, many are Tuhoe and most live in the same community as him.

"They painted canvases black and used stamps and stencils made from foam mat pieces to create the art," she said.

Ms Simpson said Mr Iti lived down the same right-of-way as one of her students, and when the student told Mr Iti about the school project he gave her a painting of his dog Nehe to keep in the class for a few days.

It was his first painting of an animal, she said.

Taneatua Gallery also loaned the school a few of Mr Iti's canvases, one of which is valued \$10,000.

"It has been an amazing journey with the kids," she said.