

Wāhine Toa | Warrior Woman (2023)

Medium: acrylic on canvas, 40" x 30"

Artist: Emma Coddington Brown

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Women are “te whare tangata” (the house of humanity) in Mātauranga Māori, deeply respected for the ability to create life and new forms, for our knowledge generation and sharing, and for our fierce presence, power, and pūkana.

Poem:

Whakarongo mai, Whakaranga mai, Whakarunga mai

we waiata for the sacred feminine
and bring
ūkaipō, who is mother, source of nourishment
whaea, who is mother & aunty, source of guidance and unconditional love
Papatūānuku, the primordial earth mother

we feel the pull of moon's shadow
old paths to security reclaimed
new paths revealed by our own bioluminescence

In the salty waters of moana and tinana/body
this waiata is guided by Te Wheke Kamaatu
Rose Pere's octopus of great wisdom.
time & intention pearling the debris of pains
coalesced through the ages of sorrow, toil, and traumas
transformed in the womb of
mother fuckin' powerhouses of beings
who call on the source with discretion and purpose

In service to all those who dwell in liminal spaces
In a land we were not born to
In bodies these systems were not built for
& too oft' far from our ancestral homes,
who themselves have some serious reckoning to do too.

Today, we find ways to be in our tinana/bodies full-y alive
sensuous and porous to the energies
and knowledges of this world
fully connected in relationship
with all our selves and com-unity.
together we can thrive & re-member our de-light again.

Whakarongo mai, Whakaranga mai, Whakarunga mai