

# JIMMY JAMES KOURATORAS

## Painter

### Aotearoa, New Zealand

**Jimmy James Kouratoras (Ngati Tiipa, Crete)** descends from a long line of artisans and his artwork weaves together both his Cretan and Māori heritage. With no formal art school training his oeuvre began over two decades ago as a scenic painter working in the film industry. He has worked on local and international films, TV series and has also freelanced on various international projects. During the last decade Jimmy has focused on working exclusively as a full-time painter and sculptor out of his studio in Port Waikato, Aotearoa New Zealand.



During these last ten years Jimmy's works have rapidly gained international acclaim and recognition with exhibitions in Los Angeles, New York, Honolulu, Melbourne, Brisbane, Beijing as well as in Auckland, Wellington and Queenstown. His works can be found in private collections around the world and he has represented New Zealand at the Asia-Pacific Triennial (2015), the Honolulu Biennale (2019) Beijing Biennale (2019). In New Zealand, his works can be found in Artbay gallery, Queenstown as well as at the Auckland Art Gallery, Motu Tapu Gallery and at the Park Hyatt Hotel, Auckland.

Jimmy has become known as a leading figure in contemporary New Zealand art. His artworks are characterised by vibrant pop-colors, layered narratives that draw upon a rich array of sources to create a textured canvas and is given a luminous finish as a result of using liquid glass.

Jimmy currently has a solo exhibition at Artbay Gallery, Queenstown ***Ode to My Grecian Urn*** and his work is also at the Auckland Art gallery as part of **Toi Tu Toi Ora**, which is the largest exhibition of contemporary Māori art in the last 20 years. He is the Winner of the People's Choice Award at the Brisbane Contemporary Art Prize (2016) and shortlisted for the National Contemporary Art Award (2017). He has given many public talks collaborating with Auckland Museum, SPLICE and British Council and has supported different charities such as Cerebral Palsy and the New Zealand Dance Company's Youth programme. COVID permitting Jimmy will be travelling to Tokyo this year for a solo exhibition.

#### In this package\* you will find:

- CV
- Links to media interviews, reviews, documentaries and videos on Jimmy's exhibitions.
- Current and new work for sale. Note all prices are in USD.

Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you!





Title *Escape to Eden*

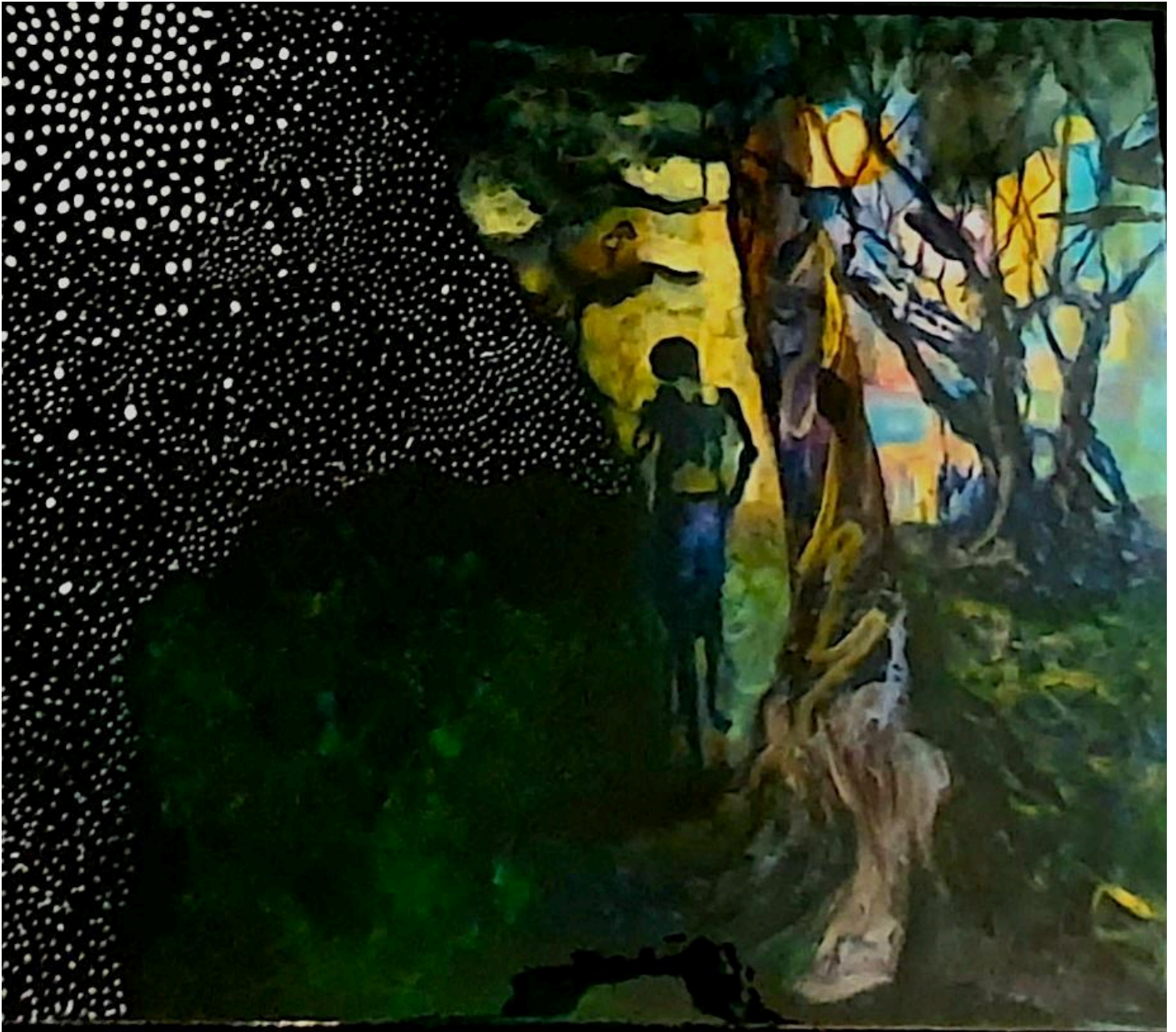
Medium Acrylic Metal Flake Resin on Canvas

Size 91cmx152cm Framed

Price \$45000 UZD

This painting was completed during lockdown. Here the central figure of a tiki is found in a ethereal garden landscape, reminiscent of the traditional 'Garden of Eden' but blending Māori iconography and symbols. The painting offers a glimpse into how the artist weaves together his cosmologies within a strong and distinctively New Zealand context. The flowers are all from the kanuka and manuka families and are all well known for their healing and restorative properties.





Title *A Bush Walk Through Heaven* (2016)

Medium Acrylic and Resin on Canvas

Size 60cm x 60cm Framed

Price \$ 8100 USD

This painting started out as a journey home towards the creator of our universe. It quickly then became the beginning of a long visual dialogue about our relationship to the stars and to the oneness of all humanity. *A Bush Walk Through Heaven* is essentially a solo journey that offers the viewer the opportunity to be embraced by nature and the heavens.





Title *Tane Mahuta Life Tree*  
Medium Acrylic Metal Flake and Resin on Canvas  
Size 152cmw x 120cmh Framed  
Price \$45000 USD





Title *Tangi Aroha*  
Medium Acrylic, Metal Flake and Resin Canvas  
Size 120cm x 164cm Framed  
Price \$ 36000 USD



*Tangi Aroha* is a Hei Tiki painted in March 2019 following the mass shooting in Christchurch. It meant a lot to me to mark that time with tears but also to show strength and resilience of the community who came together. The Hei Tiki is an iconic symbol used in Māori culture and continues to be an inspiration to me.



Title *Puti Puti*

Medium Acrylic and Resin Canvas

Size 70cm x 100cm Framed

Price \$ 14300 USD



*Puti Puti* is a cluster of flowers and this hei tiki is a reflection of its nature to be one with the environment and a manifestation of its spiritual form. The colours in this piece refract light and create a lustrous and rich work that brings together beautiful aqua, golds and magentas.



Title *Kupe The Navigator Mask*

Medium Soft stone gesso and hessian construction layered with Acrylic paint, Metal Flake and Resin.

Size 50cm x 35cm x 25cm.

Price \$14300 USD

For further info email Jimmy James Kouratoras. [admin@jimmyjamesk.com](mailto:admin@jimmyjamesk.com) or visit [www.artbykouratoras.com](http://www.artbykouratoras.com)



This ancestral figure reflects the celestial colours of the southern night sky and shows him as a way finder guided by the dots of lights printed on the dark night skies. In Māori culture, Tohunga could read the star maps and chartered the heavens to navigate the open highways of our pacific ocean. Further, karakia was used to keep the faith and heart strong and to please the gods especially Tangaroa (God of the Sea) and Tawhirimatea (God of the Winds). All these elements are reflected in this sculpture and he is named after one of the very first navigators to Aotearoa.



Title *Waiata O Nga Whetu*  
Medium Acrylic and Resin on Canvas  
Size 1170w x 1720h Framed  
Price \$45000 USD



Three Pou stand strong under the night skies and are illuminated by the light of stars. The past, present and future entwine before us. Within the Pou are the strata that tell the story of the earth, its varying landscapes and its healing energy. Birds are painted to represent the communication between the physical world and the heavenly realm as they are the only ones who can sing the loudest and fly high enough from the land for the gods to receive their messages. *Waiata O Nga Whetu* (Song of the Stars) is about the heavenly conversation that happens in the stillness of night and its clear skies.



Title *Hei Tiki Ngahere*

Medium Acrylic, Metal Flake and Resin on Canvas

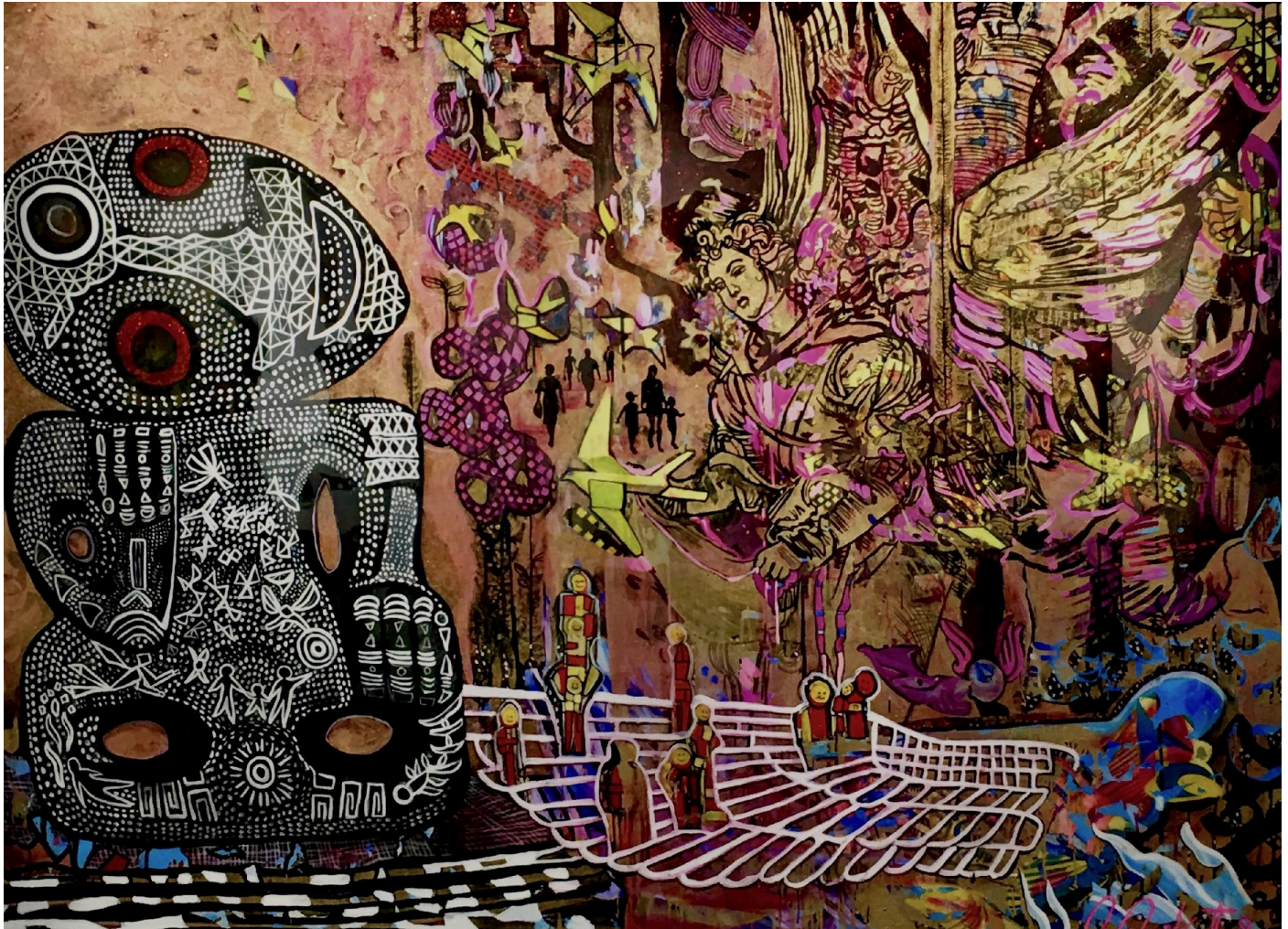
Size 90cmx120cm

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Price \$14300 USD

This painting is named after the Mandarin translation of lotus. It was inspired after a visit to the Forbidden city in Beijing, China and brings together both the traditional Māori icon, the tiki, and the recognizable shapes of the lotus flower which is often found in many Chinese paintings. Illuminated by a heart of pounamu (greenstone) this tiki pays special homage to two cultures that have long ties here in Aotearoa. THIS PAINTING IS AVAILABLE AS ORIGINAL WORK



itle *Te Waka O Te Wairua*

Medium Acrylic,Metal Flake and Resin on Canvas

Size 180cmx230cm

Price \$108,000 USD

Angels and ancestors collide to create an intermediary space where humans are both fascinated and attracted to different worlds and their cosmologies - one Orthodox Christian, the other deeply Indigenous. This work embraces the notion of using 'whakapapa' (genealogy) as a technique to layer various images, icons and symbols to create a cohesive narrative. Specifically, the large hei tiki which dominates the left hand-side of the painting is studded with intimate family portraits in its belly, and then as your gaze moves upwards you can see constellations and ancestral pathways that take you right up the very open, conscious, and bright red eyes. These windows to the soul symbolize a universe inside a universe. On the right hand-side, the archangel I've created is inspired by the 13th century frescoes



in churches in Crete (which is where I'm from) and laced with gold, magenta and blue. These colours share the opulence of the vestries. The angel also has many swallows that we often see around these old monasteries which are now revered as cultural sites of historical significance.

## Recent exhibitions

- 2021 – *Ode to My Grecian Urn* - Artbay Gallery – Queenstown, New Zealand
- 2020 – *Toi Tu Toi Ora* - Auckland Art Gallery – Auckland, New Zealand
- 2019 – Te Atinga Residency – Turangawaewae Marae – Waikato, Auckland
- 2019 – 8<sup>th</sup> *Beijing International Art Biennale* – New Zealand Special Exhibition – Beijing, China
- 2019 – *Ho Mai Te Hinu* (sculpture) – Otago Art Society – Dunedin, New Zealand – **Shortlisted for Cleveland**

### National Art Award

- 2019 – *Mana Mask* (sculpture) - SaVAge K'lub HQ – Honolulu Biennial, Hawaii, USA
- 2019 – *Pūtahi Wairua: Where Angels and Ancestors Collide* – Queenstown, New Zealand
- 2018 – *Mapura Studios Charity Art Auction* – Auckland, New Zealand
- 2018 – *Solo Exhibition: Our Meeting Place* – Artbay Gallery – Queenstown, New Zealand.
- 2017 – *Solo Exhibition: The Classics* – International collaboration with Glory Kadigan – Auckland, New Zealand.
- 2017 – *Women's Work* – Geoff Wilson Gallery – Auckland, New Zealand.
- 2016 – *COLOURS group show* – Auckland, New Zealand.
- 2016 – *Brisbane Contemporary Art prize* – Judith wright gallery of Contemporary Art – Brisbane, Australia.

### Winner: People's Choice Award

- 2016 – *Solo Exhibition: The Big Picture* – Allpress Gallery – Auckland, New Zealand.
- 2016 – *Group Exhibition of Contemporary Māori Artists: Tangatawhenua* – Corbans – Auckland, New Zealand.
- 2016 – *Wāhine Toa* - Michael Fowler Center – Presentation to the European Union – Wellington, New Zealand.
- 2015 – *GOMA Asia Pacific Triennial* - Presenting work with Savage Klub Exhibition - Queensland Australia
- 2015 – *Pacific Exhibition* – Ora Gallery – Manhattan, USA.
- 2015 – *International Group Show* – Agora Gallery – Manhattan, USA.
- 2014 – *Solo Exhibition: Kaitiaki* – Nathan Club Britomart – Auckland, New Zealand.
- 2014 – *Solo Exhibition: Unorthodox* – Allpress Gallery – Melbourne, Australia.
- 2014 – *Solo Exhibition: Introducing Paintings & Prints* – Allpress Gallery – Auckland, New Zealand.
- 2013 – *Solo Exhibition: Pou Exhibition* – Saatchi and Saatchi – Auckland, New Zealand.
- 2012 – *PouPou Skate Art* – Cross St Gallery – Auckland, New Zealand.

# Documentary Video and Media Links

## Video Links

### Pūtahi Wairua: A documentary

This film by Artbay Gallery showcases contemporary New Zealand visual artist Jimmy James Kouratoras exploring the intersections between the celestial and the earthly. Through acknowledging the different conversations that have guided civilisations over millennia he chooses to juxtapose traditional icons and symbols with rich and powerful Pou



figures. The weaving of different ancestral guardians reflects a commentary on how we can experience our world and the worlds through which we have travelled to be here. This exhibition will showcase a brand new series of work that draws upon Kouratoras' exploration of a shared space, Putāhi Wairua, the meeting place of spirits and one that is inviting and inclusive of all.

<https://vimeo.com/312448668>

## Behind the Scenes: Jimmy James K

Colours Collective is a place where artists show and sell their goods, say their bit through video and do their bit by supporting a charity of their choice. Inspired by the unique talent of Jimmy James K they made this stunning video  
<https://vimeo.com/181358566>

### Media:

2019 – Unique pōwhiri to open new art exhibition – Māori Television

<https://www.maoritelevision.com/news/regional/unique-powhiri-open-new-art-exhibition>

2017 – Women's Work Exhibition challenges Stereotypes – Radio NZ

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/331102/women-s-work-exhibition-challenges-stereotypes>

2017 – QnA with Jimmy James K – The Big Idea

<https://www.thebigidea.nz/stories/tbi-qna-jimmy-james-kouratoras>

2015 – Jimmy James K has sell-out exhibition in Manhattan – TVNZ

<https://www.tvnz.co.nz/one-news/new-zealand/gallery-brings-a-taste-of-nz-art-to-the-big-apple-6338498>

2015 – Art Review – The New Zealand Herald

[http://www.nzherald.co.nz/entertainment/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=1501119&objectid=10868137](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/entertainment/news/article.cfm?c_id=1501119&objectid=10868137)