

Te Manu Huna a Tāne

The Hidden Birds of Tāne

EDITED BY JENNIFER GILLAM AND EUGENE HANSEN



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A UNIQUE INSIGHT INTO WEAVING WITH KIWI FEATHERS

This special photo book documents a wananga or class for three generations of women from Ngāti Torehina Ki Mataka to learn the customary practice of pelting North Island brown kiwi so their feathers can be used for weaving. This passing on of customary knowledge developed out of a partnership between conservationists and weavers that returned accidentally killed kiwi to the hapū or family of the rohe or district in which they were found.

Weaving, perhaps the preeminent form of Māori women's cultural expression, was in serious decline in New Zealand until the 1950s, when a concerted effort was made by Māori women to preserve and maintain it and to highlight the need to protect vital natural resources. Formal training is now available through universities and polytechnics, but traditionally weaving has been taught within hapū, usually by a mother, aunt or grandmother honouring protocols and restrictions to maintain the integrity of the discipline.

It offers a particular perspective on the contemporary hapū-led cultural practices of Māori women and their intersection of the sacred and profound in the everyday. It also brings a greater understanding of conservation efforts and, in particular, of how the Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai works closely with tangata whenua.

ABOUT THE EDITORS

Jenny Gillam is a photographer, writer and exhibiting multimedia artist. She is a senior lecturer and programme leader in Massey University's Bachelor of Fine Arts. Her projects are often produced collaboratively with other artists or with experts from another field. She lives in Wellington.

Eugene Hansen (Maniapoto) is a senior lecturer at Massey University's Whiti o Rehua, School of Art, Wellington. Focusing on co-authoring and working collaboratively, he has a long-term multimedia art practice exhibiting nationally and internationally. Eugene attributes his interest in collaboration to growing up in the remote rural Māori community featured in this book, where cultural production was modelled as an inherently collaborative embracing of mātauranga Māori. He lives in Wellington.

SALES POINTS

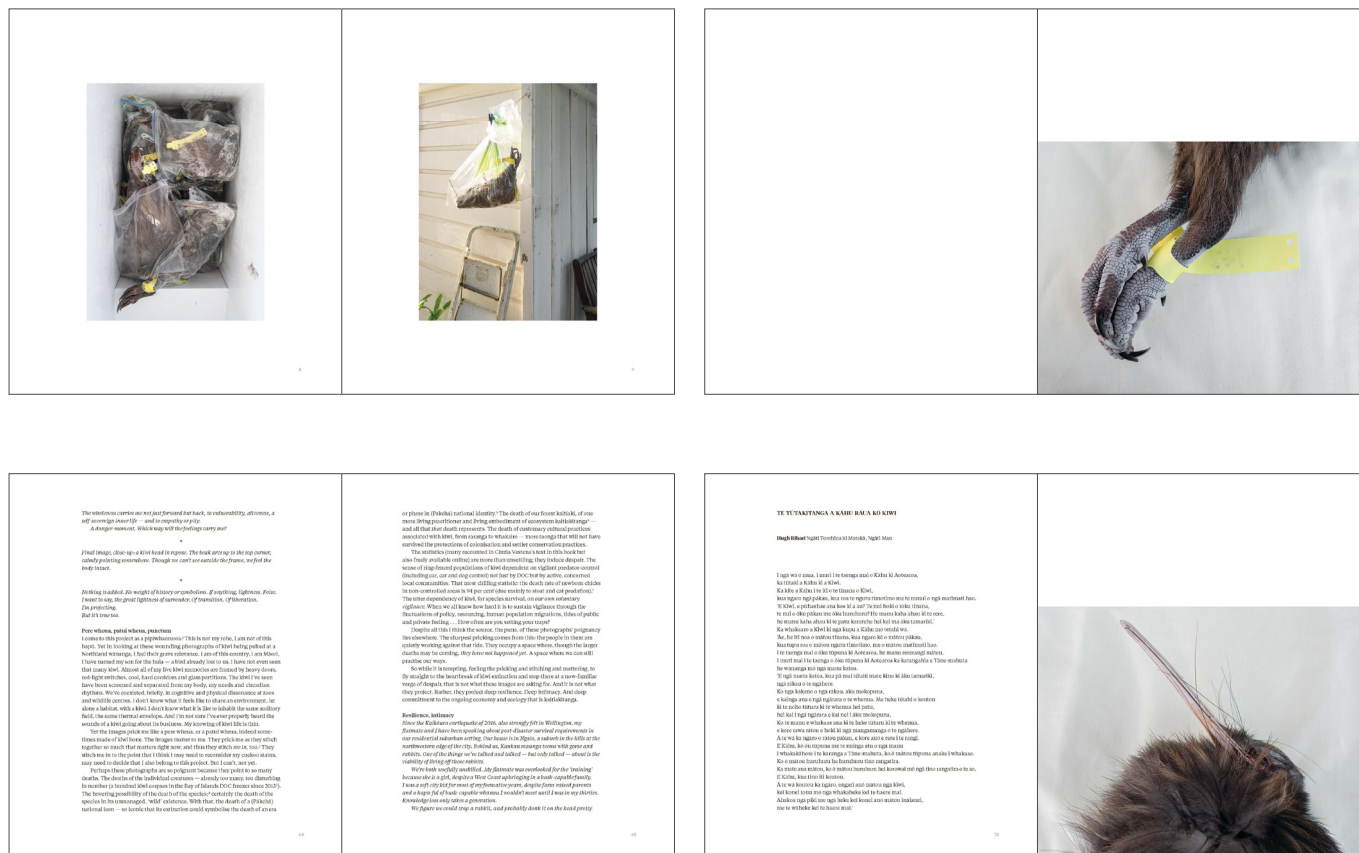
- A unique book offering a window into cultural practice.
- Of interest to the many people engaged with Maori weaving and both its maintenance and revival.
- Of interest to those focused on the conservation of New Zealand's national bird.
- A beautiful small book, beautifully designed and with outstanding photographs.
- Of interest to those who read and buy photo books.

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Reviews

‘Look at this dead bird and feel the sight of it catch in your craw, claw at your throat, feel it spill from your eyes, this book should make you feel uncomfortable, this book should make you want things to be different, this book should make you move.’ — *essa may ranapiri, The Spinoff*

‘It’s books like this that will help us to rethink how we as a society need to change.’ — *Leilani Tamu, RNZ*