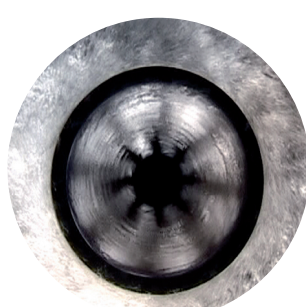


ANIWANIWA

BRETT GRAHAM AND RACHEL RAKENA



INTERPRETIVE RESOURCE

The Barn, Rosny Farm
Rosny Hill Road
Hobart, Tasmania

20 MARCH–13 APRIL, 9–5 DAILY

AccessArt
Centre for Learning and Discovery

Tasmanian Museum
& Art Gallery



ANIWANIWA



In this collaborative sculptural and video installation, artists Brett Graham and Rachel Rakena work with the idea of submersion and cultural loss.

'Aniwaniwa evokes the blackness of deep waters, storm clouds, a state of bewilderment, a sense of disorientation as one is tossed beneath the waters. It can also be a rainbow, a symbol of hope.'

It is a local story that directly involved Graham's family in New Zealand:

'Aniwaniwa refers to rapids at the narrowest point of the Waikato River by the village of Horahora, where Graham's father was born and his Grandfather worked at the Horahora power station. In 1947 the town was flooded to create a hydro-electric dam downstream. Many historic sites significant to Graham's hapu Ngati Koroki were lost forever.'

The soundtrack of the installation gives emotional cues to loss and grief experienced by people affected by the flooding. As the power station was being submerged, the workers sang a goodbye song in Māori language to the tune of *Now is the Hour*. You can hear this in the installation soundtrack featuring celebrated Māori singers, Whirimako Black and Deborah Wai Kapohe with musician Paddy Free.

In the Rosny Schoolhouse, visitors can find stories and images of this installation relating to the installation of the work at the Venice Biennale 2007, story of Horahora, and Māori traditional culture.

A Māori Meeting House is a gathering space used for telling stories, for keeping warm, for ceremonies, for grieving, for rituals and sleeping—it is about being together. It is also a cultural museum and art gallery that might include carved wooden poles depicting ancestors, and woven wall panels conveying stories.

In this installation, visitors are encouraged to lie down in a way that is reminiscent of the way people can lie on mattresses in Meeting Houses. In the exhibition, lying down is the optimal way of viewing the work, allowing your eyes to adjust to the light of the images.

This exhibition, while telling a local story specific to New Zealand, encourages us to consider global issues such as cultural identity, rising sea levels and global warming.

Aniwaniwa quotations from:

www.aniwaniwa.org/index.aspx?site=571&page=5436

ANIWANIWA



EXTENDING YOUR EXHIBITION VISIT

Installation in Venice

- Have a discussion about the challenges that may face communities when there is a possibility of flooding, either through environmental changes, or by man-made projects such as dams.
- Create designs of technological inventions that could help to protect places such as Venice that are threatened by environmental flooding.

Flooding of Horahora

- In the Rosny Schoolhouse there is information, including a DVD, about the flooding of Horahora. Research ways that the flooding of the weir, power station and village affected different people.
- Imagine ways that the dislocation resulting from the flooding caused changes in the life of the community. Make up a story about someone your age who lived in the village and was affected by the flooding.

Māori Traditional Culture

- The Meeting House is a place of gathering for Māori people. Where does your family gather? Draw your gathering space and design wall panels that convey your family stories.
- Share your family stories with others in your group. Families are different. Listen to ways that other stories are similar or different from your stories.

Further information is available on the following websites:

www.aniwaniwa.org

Aniwaniwa installation site

www.tepapa.govt.nz/TePapa

go to: First Time Visitors, The Marae

Te Papa – Museum of New Zealand

www.doc.govt.nz/conservation/historic/by-region/eastcoast-hawkes-bay/aniwaniwana

NZ Department of Conservation site