

Mokopōpaki

BILLY APPLE
BROWN ROOM
SUBTRACTION
2 August–16 September
2017

The starting point for *Brown Room Subtraction* was an architectural idea proposed by Billy to modify our formal exhibition space by removing the painted vinyl floor covering. This challenge to Mokopōpaki as a Māori-centred space was in turn taken up and critiqued by the sibling collaboration known as Yllwbro in their capacity or role as members of the Mokopōpaki Whānau.

Billy produced an explanatory text element in English describing his intervention. After further conversation it was agreed that there needed to be a Te Reo Māori component in the exhibition. Billy suggested a Māori translation of his intention but we asked that he work with the Māori translation of his idea instead.

Mokopōpaki presented Billy's proposal to Yllwbro for consultation. They said, from their point of view, the text could not in fact be 'translated'. They did not want any Māori translation of Billy's idea to become some kind of brown shadow or literal word for word approximation describing what they see as essentially the substance of another shape. They did however come back with a text in Te Reo Māori. It is, they say, a response that for them 'translates' Billy's action and interprets this by reflecting on the material consequences of such subtraction.

As you will see, the source of this reflection is from a sacred book of prophesy, one that Yllwbro says would have informed the world of those who taught their pakeke and those who taught these pakeke before that.

It is a provocative but very beautiful text that speaks of the celebration and joy that will come with the restoration not only of the space but also the land and its people:

Ko ngā raorao katoa ka whakarewaina ake, ko ngā maunga katoa me ngā pukepuke, ka whakapāpakutia iho: ko ngā wāhi kōpikopiko ka meinga kia tika, ko ngā wāhi taratara kia papatairite. Ihaia 40:4

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain. Isaiah 40:4

BROWN ROOM SUBTRACTION

**Billy Apple has requested
that Mokopōpaki remove
the painted vinyl flooring
to reveal the Kauri floor-
boards beneath.**

TE PĀNUI KEI IHAIA 40:4

Ko ngā raorao katoa ka whakarewaina
ake, ko ngā maunga katoa me ngā
pukepuke, ka whakapāpakutia iho:
ko ngā wāhi kōpikopiko ka meinga
kia tika, ko ngā wāhi taratara kia
papatairite.

Ka nui te mihi ki a koutou

Keith Duncan
David Kisler
Graeme Webber
Yllwbro

Kia ora rā

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