

Artist Statement

Pete Smith, '*Cloak*'

The inspiration for *Cloak* has its source in the traditional Maori feather cloak (kahu huruhuru). These cloaks are highly prized as a family or personal heirloom and are strongly linked to personal identity, as are the traditional skin cloaks worn by Aboriginal people, where the incised designs identify the wearer and what clan group they came from.

In the context of this exhibition, *Cloak* looks at the traditions of dress that connect the physical body to the spiritual world by the wearing of sacred objects which wrap the body and allow it to carry significant markings.