**Jodie Appleton**
**Artist**

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During my Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Fine Art, I specialised in drawing and mark-making — disciplines that continue to shape my creative practice today.

Three years ago, I began exploring pyrography: the art of burning images into wood. This technique offered a way to make my drawings more tactile and enduring. Working with pyrography has since become a central part of my practice, allowing me to combine fine detail with the natural textures of timber.

My work is deeply influenced by my passion for the environment, particularly the unique native bush of Aotearoa. My intricate compositions celebrate New Zealand's forests while exploring the complex relationship between people and the land. Each piece is carefully designed to highlight themes of guardianship, identity, and connection to nature.

The wood I work with is more than a surface — it becomes part of the story. The grain, shape, and species of timber often inform the imagery I burn into it. Symbolism plays a key role in my work, from the choice of forest scenes to the placement of constructed forms and other visual elements. This considered approach results in layered, spiritual images that invite viewers to reflect on the wonder of the natural world and our place within it.

Through my art, I seek to foster a deeper appreciation of the environment and a sense of responsibility for the land we inhabit.

## Exhibitions

**24th September 2026 - end February 2027 -** Lava Glass, Taupō **- "Artful Minds - Elements"**

**15th Aug - 21st Sept 2026 -** Taupō Museum and Art Gallery **- "The Language of Wood"**

**16th May - 30th May 2026-** Hastings Community Arts Centre **- "The Language of Wood"**

**1st Nov - 23rd Nov 2024 -** Rotorua Arts Village **- "From The Ashes"**

**3rd August - 9th Sept 2024 -** Taupō Museum and Art Gallery **- "From The Ashes"**

## Art Shows and Expos

**31st July - 2nd August 2026 -** Auckland Art Show - Pyrography

**27th Feb - 1st March 2026 -** Wellington Art Show - Pyrography

**27th June - 29th June 2025 -** Auckland Art Show - Pyrography

## Gallery Representation

**2024 - 2026 -** Taupō Museum and Art Gallery

**2023 -** Zeayou Gallery, Taupō

**2013 - 2015** - Pihanga Gallery, Tūrangi

## Workshops

**30th September 2026** - Waimarino Art Awards, Volcanic Vibe, Raetihi - Beginner's Pyrography

## Awards and Competitions

**2025 - Stuff Art Aotearoa Gold Award -** Highly Commended - The Auckland Art Show - for "Knotted Bond"

**2024 -** Resene School Mural Competition - 3rd Place

**2002 -** Student achievement award - 4 drawings purchased by the University of Lincoln

**1999** - Student of the Year award for Art Foundation Studies

**1998** - Design Technology Award - A level

**1998** - Personal Achievement Award - A level

## Work Experiences

**2024** - School Water Tank Mural - Mihi School
**2012** - Sign Writing in the Office of Blackcurrant Backpackers
**2012** - Mural - Laundry at Blackcurrant Backpackers
**2011** - Sign Writing - Bradshaws Lodge
**2011 -** Benches and TV room at Blackcurrant Backpackers
**2009** - Mural - Great Mercy Orphanage, Kenya
**2009** - Mural - Christ Church School, UK
**1999** - Millennium Mural - Eshton Hall Nursing Home, UK

## Education

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|---|---|
| 2005 – 2006 **University of Leeds** Leeds, England | **PGCE** - Primary Teaching |
| 1999 – 2002 **De Montfort University** Lincoln, England | **BA HONS Degree** – Fine Art |
| 1998 – 1999 **Craven College** Skipton, England | **BTEC National Diploma** – Art |
| | **A Level** – Graphic Design |
| 1991 – 1998 **Skipton Girls' High School** Skipton, England | **3 A Levels -** Art and Design, Design Technology, English Language |
| | **9 GCSEs** - incl. Art and DT |