

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

2026 - Aug - Sept - Taupō Museum and Art Gallery - "The Language of Wood"

2026 - 16th May - 30th May - 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

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

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

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

Gallery Representation

2024/25 - Taupō Museum and Art Gallery

2023 - Zeayou Gallery, Taupō

2013 - 2015 - Pihanga Gallery, Tūrangi

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

2005 – 2006 **University of Leeds** Leeds, England

1999 – 2002 **De Montfort University** Lincoln, England

1998 – 1999 **Craven College** Skipton, England

1991 – 1998 **Skipton Girls' High School** Skipton, England

PGCE - Primary Teaching

BA HONS Degree – Fine Art

BTEC National Diploma – Art

A Level – Graphic Design

3 A Levels - Art and Design,
Design Technology,
English Language

9 GCSEs - incl. Art and DT