

# HE TOI WHAKAIRO

*pātōtō – pātōtō – pātōtō – pātōtō*

A strong wooden mallet strikes a sharp metal chisel.

We follow the wood grain  
as we cut ridges and notches.

Wood chips fly!

*pātōtō – pātōtō – pātōtō – pātōtō*

Shapes are carved away:  
triangles, diamonds, zigzags.  
Rauru roll outwards and inwards,  
the spirals creating ata and ātārangi.

*pātōtō – pātōtō – pātōtō – pātōtō*

Nature's patterns inspire us:  
spider webs  
fish scales and flounder  
unfurling fern fronds.

*pātōtō – pātōtō – pātōtō – pātōtō*

We are tohunga whakairo.  
With skill and patience,  
tiki and manaia are carved  
to decorate the prow of a waka.

*pātōtō – pātōtō – pātōtō – pātōtō*

*Kelly Joseph*



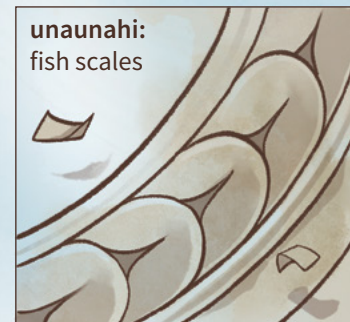
ILLUSTRATIONS BY ISOBEL TE AHO-WHITE

## WHAKAIRO PATTERNS

**pūngāwerewere:**  
spider webs



**unaunahi:**  
fish scales



**pātiki:**  
flounder



**koru:**  
unfurling fern frond



## GLOSSARY

**ata:** light

**ātārangi:** shadow

**manaia:** stylised figure,  
usually a human form,  
with the head of a bird  
and the tail of a fish

**pātōtō:** repeated  
knocking noise

**rauru:** spiral form  
of carving

**tiki:** carved  
human figure

**tohunga whakairo:**  
master carver

**he toi whakairo:**  
the art of carving

# He Toi Whakairo

by Kelly Joseph

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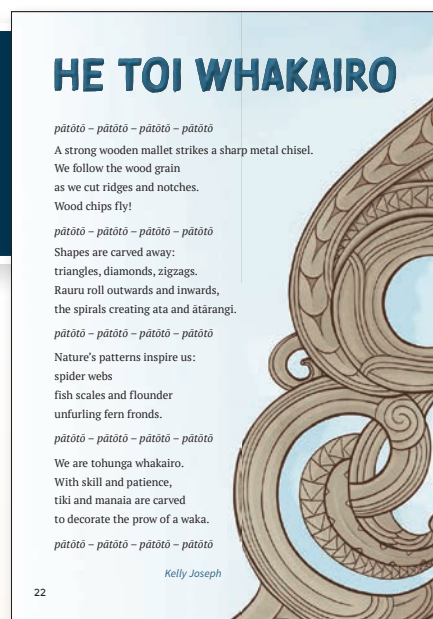
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