



### EVENTS ACCOMPANYING THE SPECIAL EXHIBITION

can be found in the programme on the museum's website at [www.museum-fuenf-kontinente.de/veranstaltungen/programmueberblick](http://www.museum-fuenf-kontinente.de/veranstaltungen/programmueberblick)

### FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ABOUT THE MUSEUM

subscribe to our newsletter at [www.museum-fuenf-kontinente.de/services/newsletter.html](http://www.museum-fuenf-kontinente.de/services/newsletter.html)

### VISIT US ONLINE

[www.museum-fuenf-kontinente.de](http://www.museum-fuenf-kontinente.de)  
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Cover: *Long Staff Club (Taiaha)*, Akeake wood, Haliotis (*pāua*), sealing wax, feathers, hair, cloth, plant fibre, sewing cotton, length 140 cm, received as a gift from the Novara-Museum, Vienna, between 1860 and 1865 © Museum Fünf Kontinente, photo: Nicolai Kästner  
Top: *Jewellery Box (Waka Huia)*, Tōtara wood, purchased in 1935 from Herrmann Meyer's estate, Leipzig © Museum Fünf Kontinente, photo: Nicolai Kästner

### MUSEUM FÜNF KONTINENTE

Maximilianstraße 42 | 80538 Munich  
T (089) 210 136 100 | [kontakt@mfk-weltoffen.de](mailto:kontakt@mfk-weltoffen.de)

### OPENING TIMES


Tue–Sun 9.30am–5.30pm  
For times on public holidays see [www.museum-fuenf-kontinente.de](http://www.museum-fuenf-kontinente.de)

### ADMISSION CHARGES

can be found under English summary on the museum's website: [www.museum-fuenf-kontinente.de/services/english-summary.html](http://www.museum-fuenf-kontinente.de/services/english-summary.html)

### GUIDED TOURS AND INFORMATION

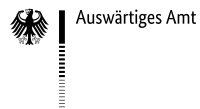
Guided tours on request for kindergartens, after school care centres, school classes and groups of adults: [kunstvermittlung@mfk-weltoffen.de](mailto:kunstvermittlung@mfk-weltoffen.de)

 Access for wheelchair users via Knöbelstraße. Museum staff will be on hand should you require assistance. Please call us beforehand. T (089) 210 136 100

### HOW TO GET THERE

U4 and U5 Lehel, S-Bahn Isartor, Tram 17, 19 and 21 Maxmonument

We would like to thank



# HE TOI ORA

A Living  
History

17.10.2025  
— 10.5.2026



**MUSEUM  
FÜNF  
KONTINENTE**

# HE TOI ORA - A LIVING HISTORY

## Connecting Carved Māori Treasures in the Museum Fünf Kontinente

In the Māori world view, all art forms carry within them an enduring relationship between the past and the present. Many carvings are thus perceived as living and connected to the ancestors. For this reason, the descendants of the original creators or owners should be able to renew this important connection. *He Toi Ora* means: a living art.

But from which *iwi* (tribal groups) in New Zealand do the museum objects now looked after in the Museum Fünf Kontinente originate? The research comes up against boundaries: almost all of the pieces

*Carved Figure with Box, Toatoa wood, pāua, 15 × 8,7 × 9,5 cm, purchased in 1935 from Herrmann Meyer's estate, Leipzig*  
© Museum Fünf Kontinente, photo: Nicolai Kästner



*Hiwirori Hatea, Hinehakirangi, acrylic on canvas, 264 × 233 cm, 2017*  
© Museum Fünf Kontinente, photo: Nicolai Kästner

were acquired in London between 1825 and 1914, where their trail is lost. Often, the question of their origin can only be approached based on certain clues.

The search for these clues begins with historical photos and documents. They provide information about the previous owners from whom the museum acquired the objects and their motivation for collecting them. Another piece of the puzzle is provided by wood analyses, which offer information about the different tree species used for carving.

The carving motifs can also be part of provenance research, pointing towards specific stylistic regions. However, Māori knowledge is of vital importance when classifying and tracing the pieces.

In close consultation with Māori experts, the exhibition was jointly developed by the museum's Oceania curator and David Jones from the Rongowhakaata *iwi* as Māori curator. The show presents methods used to research the objects, inviting visitors to participate by using a microscope and identifying carving patterns. At the same time, it introduces visitors to Māori philosophy.

Although in most cases only clues suggest the exact origin, one object - the Tāwhaki post figure - could be clearly identified as coming

from a Māori meeting house near Gisborne. For this reason, the last room is dedicated to the ancestor Tāwhaki and Rongowhakaata *iwi*. Films, interviews, a photo installation and modern art objects show the close connection between Tāwhaki and the people of his *iwi* living today.

A catalogue in German and English has been published to accompany the exhibition *He Toi Ora*.

*Tāwhaki, Toatoa wood, height: 168 cm, circa 1880, purchased from Ludwig Bretschneider, 1965*  
© Museum Fünf Kontinente, photo: Nicolai Kästner



### GUIDED TOURS

Guided tours with the curator Dr. Hilke Thode-Arora will take place on the following Sundays, each time at 2 pm: 26.10.25, 9.11.25, 7.12.25, 11.1.26, 8.2.26, 22.3.26, 12.4.26. Limited number of places. Please register at: [kunstvermittlung@mfk-weltoffen.de](mailto:kunstvermittlung@mfk-weltoffen.de)