Āta — *Held in Light*

A lifetime collection of twelve oil portraits of people who hold their communities together in Te Tai Tokerau, Northland. Painted slowly, one or two a year, each begins with a relationship, never a commission.

NO. 1

Te Kaitiaki — Makarita Te Nāna Howard

Oil on canvas · 750 × 690 mm

NO. 2

He Wāhine Toa — Kuia, Wini Williams

Oil on canvas · 850 × 590 mm · 2026

Invited, never commissioned

Sitters are chosen for who they are, not status, and approached with the support of their whānau.

Held together

The collection is shown at Toi Tū, Haratu Marae in Kororāreka, and returns there as one body of work.

Fully documented

Every portrait carries its sitter's story, a record of its making, and a signed certificate of provenance.

Āta — to listen with care, think with intention, speak with honesty, and move gently through the world.

Becoming a Guardian

Collectors of Āta are guardians rather than buyers. You own the painting; it keeps its place in the story. A small number of works are entrusted each year, by private conversation with the artist.

AS GUARDIAN YOU RECEIVE

The original oil painting, signed

A certificate of authenticity and provenance

The sitter's story and the story of the painting's making, in print

Photographs and film of the work in progress

Your name in the collection register, if you wish

An invitation to each full-collection exhibition

THE UNDERSTANDING WE SHARE

The artist keeps copyright and the right to reproduce the image

The work may be lent back, occasionally and with generous notice, to exhibit with the full collection

For any loan, the artist arranges and covers transport, handling and insurance

Each portrait is offered only with the consent of the sitter and their whānau

FOUNDING GUARDIANS

The first three portraits are reserved for Founding Guardians, recognised by name in the collection for as long as it exists.

Price on application. Collectors outside New Zealand are welcome; professional crating and insured international shipping are arranged from the studio.

No financial return is promised. What is offered is a work of meaning, a real connection to its making, and a place in something that may gain significance over time.

PRIVATE ENQUIRIES

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