

Lower Hutt Art Trail 2025



Saturday and Sunday 18 and 19 October, 2025



18/19 October 2025



Te Ara Toi
o Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai

lowerhuttarttrail.co.nz



THE LOWER HUTT ART TRAIL, 10am – 4pm

Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 October 2025



Following the success of its 2024 debut, the Lower Hutt Art Trail returns with over 50 artists from across the region, from Taita to Eastbourne. Many artists are returning with new works, joined by fresh faces for 2025.

With more than 30 stops, the free trail showcases a wide variety of disciplines - painting, pottery, printmaking, collage, textiles, weaving, woodwork, glass, jewellery, metalwork, and mixed media - across studios, pop-ups, community hubs, and galleries citywide.

Special exhibitions will also run at Hutt Art, Petone Depot, and The Learning Connexion, with studios at Hutt Art and other stops open all weekend.

Visitors can plan their route using the website www.lowerhuttarttrail.co.nz or pick up a free printed guide from late August at libraries, cafes, galleries, and shops across Lower Hutt and some sites in the wider Wellington region. Start your journey at Stop 1 - Hutt Art - to grab a guide and explore the studios on site.

Celebrate local creativity and community.
For more info or to support/sponsor the event:
info@lowerhuttarttrail.co.nz

lowerhuttarttrail.co.nz   Lower Hutt Artrail





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Art Awaits: Follow the Trail

Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 October 2025

 lowerhuttarttrail.co.nz

  Lower Hutt Artrail





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Te Ara Toi
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Art Awaits:
Follow The Trail

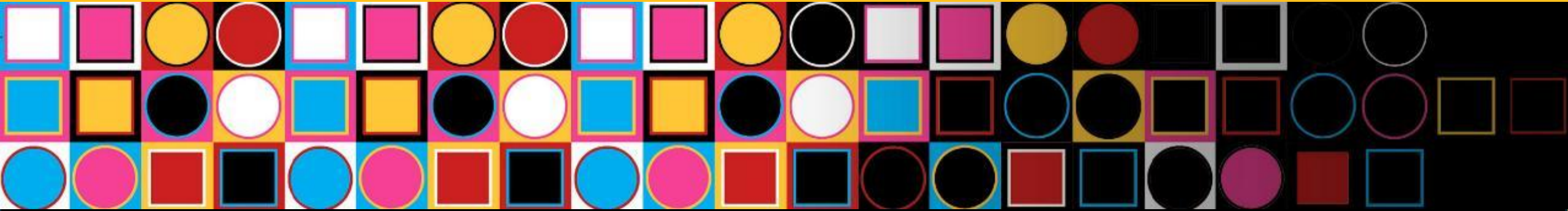
18-19 October
2025
10am - 4pm



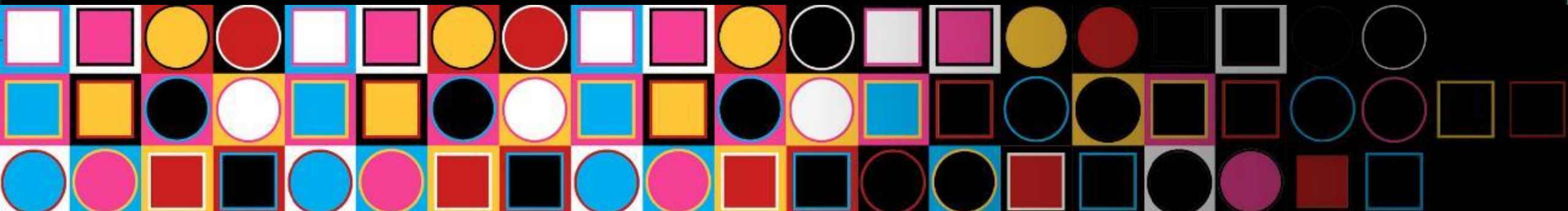
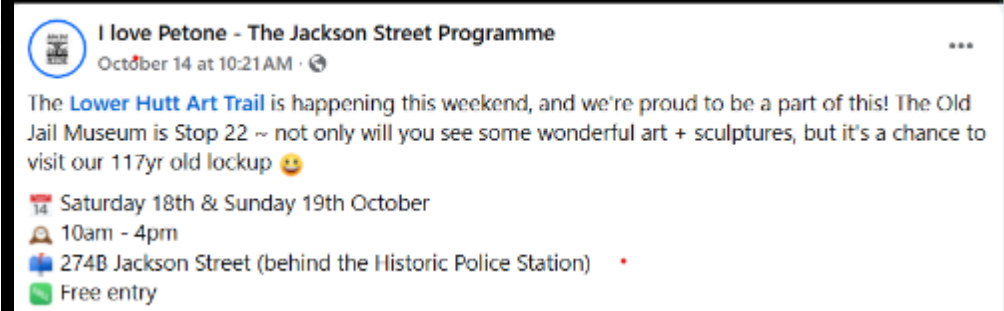


"Visitors loved meeting the artists and talking about their work."





Our social media was very active, with the number of followers nearly tripling from last year.



Wednesday September 24, 2025 Today 15°C Thursday 15°C Friday 14°C Saturday 11°C Phone: (04) 587 1 660

Art Trail

Daylight saving!
Don't forget to wind your clock FORWARD one hour this Sunday morning. Jump forward to Spring.

By Maggie Mundell
Four Wainuiomata artists feature in the year's Lower Hutt Art Trail and will take place from 8am to 5pm on Sunday 10 October. Maggie Mundell, Sophie Gardiner, Katie Crisp and Pepper Curry are the Wainuiomata artists who are participating in the Art Trail. *Contact on page 2.*

Sophie Gardiner with one of the art works she has created. Photo: Supplied.

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We also had some great publicity in the form of news articles in the Wainuiomata News and...

Exciting and amazing opportunity

Continued from page 1

They will join over 50 Hutt artists who will be presenting at more than 30 stops on the trail.

"I'm really looking forward to taking part in the Lower Hutt Art Trail again this year," Sophie Gardiner says.

"Last year seemed to be a great success. It was amazing how many people did the whole trail and the feedback we got was that people really enjoyed touring around and seeing so much diverse work and meeting the artists.

"All in all, it's great to be part of another art trail for our community. To get out and see so much creativity in one weekend is a great way to discover new artists and see their work.

"There's usually a great buzz of excitement as visitors flow through."

Sophie will be showing at Petone Depot, 8/193 Jackson Street, Petone.

"I'm busy finishing up some new works for the show, and also making some smaller 'take away' pieces.

"My work usually features our native Kakaruaia (Black Robin). she is very special and significant to me.

"As the last surviving female of her species, she's an inspirational creature, reminding us that with nurturing, positivity and resilience we can get through life's toughest challenges."

Sophie has had a busy year so far showing at the Wellington and Auckland Art Shows, and being involved with fundraisers and a few other projects.



Pepper Curry, one of the Wainuiomata residents taking part in the Hutt City Art Trail. Photo: Supplied.

"Later this year I'll be hosting some festive paint parties and also teaming up with local Wainui artist Anna Gibson to launch our art club 'The Sketch Pad' for the local community starting up in the new year."

Katie Crisp's artwork will also be on display at The Petone Depot.

In fact it will be part of an exhibition Katie is running at the Depot. Called "An Expression of Joy", Katie's exhibition is running from 4 to 29 October.

"I'm so excited in the lead up into it," she says.

"I'm just really thrilled to be able to share the Art Trail with all the other artists. It will be cool."

Katie creates gentle watercolour paintings of birds and nature, alongside expressive acrylic abstracts that explore colour and emotion. Her art is available as prints, cards and handmade pieces. Katie also works as an Art Facilitator at MIX, a mental health community day service in the Hutt Valley offering programmes in art and wellbeing.

MIX is also exhibiting in the Art Trail. The Art Trail "is an amazing



Maggie Mundell at work in her Wainuiomata studio. Photo: Supplied.

opportunity and hopefully people from Wainuiomata will get behind the Arts Trail and visit the artists all around the Hutt Valley," Maggie Mundell says.

"It's such a lovely opportunity for us as artists."

Maggie is a jeweller and works mainly with sterling silver, often combining that with gem stones.

Her display of jewellery will be at The Learning Connection, 182 Eastern Hutt Road. During the two days Maggie will also be working on one or two projects, and will be able to show people jewellery making in action.

"I have developed my practice from my home studio in Wainuiomata, where I've lived since 2018," she says.

"I primarily work with sterling silver, drawn to its versatility and timelessness. For commissions, I also work with gold, providing a unique and personal touch for clients. "In addition to jewellery making I also enjoy sculpting and stone carv-

ing when time permits, expanding my artistic practice into other forms of creative expression."

Pepper Curry is an illustrator and merch designer based out of her micro-warehouse in Gracefield, the Pepper Raccoon Studio.

Pepper's studio, located on the road that leads to the old Wainuiomata Tunnel, is one of the stops on the art trail. Pepper is well known for her nature-inspired enamel pins, stickers and apparel designs, sold in eco-sanctuaries and shops around the country. She has a fine art background that she brings to her original digital designs.

She is passionate about making art affordable and accessible, as well as bringing an original, alternative voice to the New Zealand nature art market.

Her studio is not only a space for drawing, but also where her stickers and many of her other products are made. Although four Wainuiomata artists are taking part in the 2025 Arts Trail, there will be no stops in the suburb.

"We really tried hard to get some stops together in Wainui," says Johannes Mueller-Welschof, the Lower Hutt Art Trail Committee Chair.

"We would like to move into Wainui if we can and we are looking for expressions of interest."

An application form where people can register their interest is on the Lower Hutt Art Trail website, <https://lowerhuttarttrail.co.nz> or "the Artists". Guides to the 2025 Art Trail are being distributed to libraries, galleries, museums, cafes and shops in Lower Hutt.

Arts and Culture

TE KARANGA AUHAHA

Chance to meet the makers behind the masterpieces

Studios, homes and pop-ups come alive this weekend with stories, textures and talent – all part of Lower Hutt Art Trail's second edition

ART

Johannes Mueller-Welschof

When we launched the first Lower Hutt Art Trail (LHAT) last year, we started with a simple vision: to fill a gap in the cultural calendar of Lower Hutt, create a project that encouraged collaboration and shine a light on the creativity in our community. Beginning at Hutt Art with support from Hutt City Council and local businesses, the trail has grown into something bigger than we could have imagined.

This Saturday and Sunday, from 10am to 4pm, we'll open the doors again for the second annual Lower Hutt Art Trail. More than 50 artists will take part in over 30 stops stretching from Stokes Valley to Eastbourne.

Visitors will find painting, pottery, print-making, weaving, textiles, woodwork, metalwork, glass, jewellery, mixed media and more. Studios, homes, galleries and pop-up sites will be filled with top examples of the Hutt's creativity.

For me, real magic lies in the chance to meet the makers – I love hearing their stories and discovering art where it's created.

Our curatorial approach has always been collaborative. The LHAT committee is made up of practising artists and every decision is shaped by our collective experience. Last year, for the first one, we were shoulder-tapping people we knew, encouraging them to take part.

This year, we've had more expressions of interest than we could include, which meant making some tough choices.

Our aim was to create a balanced mix of different disciplines, diverse cultural backgrounds and intergenerational participation, from young artists just starting in their careers to seniors, such as those at the Men's Shed.

Not only were we looking for outstanding art, but we want the trail to reflect the whole of Lower Hutt and it stretches across suburbs, bringing in new partnerships. I'm especially proud of our collaborations with institutions like The Dowse, The Learning Connexion, the Historic Petone Police Station, Te Whare Kahukura o Te Awa Kairangi (the Hutt Valley Rainbow Hub on High Street), MIX and the Pto One Depot.



Louise Thomas with a recently finished oil painting, *The Evening Tul*. This work will be on display at Stop 4.

Also, our work connecting and collaborating with local businesses. Together, we're showing that art isn't only about individual expression, it's about networks, communities and conversations.

As always, there are highlights I can't wait for visitors to experience. Returning favourites include the Chinese Painting Group, which this year will be hosted at the Hutt Art Painting Studio, and renown textile artists like Simone Michaux, Jo Dixey and Joy Sipeli-Antipas.

Stop 4 is in a beautiful private historic home in Woburn and hosts three returning artists, including well-known wildlife photographer and painter Louise Thomas and library sketch-club co-ordinator Michael Haynes, and of course Alfred Memelink's Artspace on the Petone Esplanade is hosting not only Alfred, but several artists of national repute.

Some of the unmissable stops this year are the Hutt Art members' exhibition, the Te Mako group pop-up in Naenae, and don't miss the energy of the Pto One Depot. For those who enjoy discovering hidden gems, check out Anna and

Jonathan Campbell's pottery and metal art in Belmont, painter Sarah Albiesser in Seaview, printmaker Marci Tackett in Taita, or the atmospheric group show at the Historic Police Station in Petone.

For myself, I'll be sharing the Rainbow Hub on High Street with upcoming artist Caitlin Thomas-Riley, who does character design, world-building and concept art for games. Along with new artists like Pepper Curry in Gracefield, she is bringing a youthful energy to the event. I love talking about my art (or art in general for that matter), so do visit Stop 17 for a chat.

Download the trail guide from lowerhuttarttrail.co.nz or pick up a copy at libraries, galleries, shops and cafes across the Hutt. Whether you're an art lover, a curious visitor, or someone simply looking for a unique day out, there's something here for you.

Come and see the creativity of our community – and definitely take a piece (or two) of it home.

Johannes Mueller-Welschof is chair of the Lower Hutt Art Trail Committee.

Culture Bites



Journalist and broadcaster Mike McRoberts.

Journalist shares the stories behind the stories

BOOKS

Award-winning journalist and broadcaster Mike McRoberts is a familiar face in Aotearoa New Zealand homes. From anchoring *Newshub's* 6pm bulletin for 20 years to reporting from conflict zones and natural disasters worldwide, his work has always involved telling other people's stories.

But what about the stories that have influenced him? Hear from McRoberts about the important role books have played in his life at a fundraising event for Katherine Mansfield House & Garden in Thorndon, where internationally acclaimed writer Katherine Mansfield was born and where creativity continues to flourish.

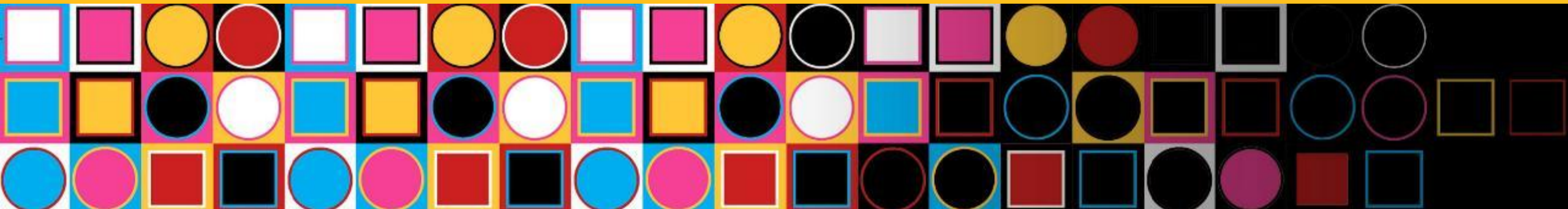
Growing up in Ōtautahi Christchurch, McRoberts became a student librarian, never imagining he'd become the author of two books himself. His latest, *Speaking My Language / Te Kōrero i Toka Reo*, was released in September and explores his personal journey into te reo Māori and te ao Māori, the beginning of which was captured in his 2022 documentary, *Kia Ora, Good Evening*.

The evening begins with a glass of wine and canapés, and Marsden Books will be on hand to sell copies of McRoberts' book that he will be available to sign at the end of the event.

Behind the Headlines: Talking Books with Mike McRoberts, Marsden Auditorium, Samuel Marsden Collegiate School, Karori, October 21, 6pm. Tickets \$35-\$65 from katherinemansfield.com.

...The Post





New Lower Hutt mayor, Ken Laban, welcomed everyone to the Lower Hutt Art Trail Opening night, held at the Hutt Art Society.

The Artists had some positive things to say too...

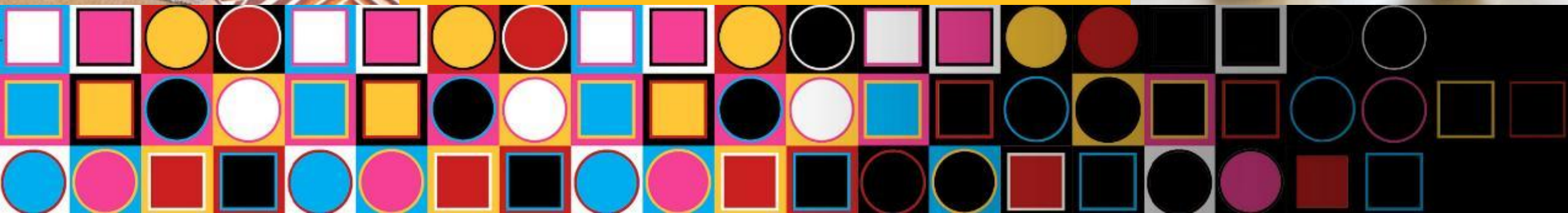


“Comments from visitors were all positive and many were spending the whole weekend visiting as many sites as they could.”

“it’s all a great experience for the participating artists.”

“Also met people keen to be an artist on the trail next year.”

“Visitors loved meeting the artists and talking about their work”



Some comments from our Visitors...

Everywhere I looked had something to explore

Awesome trail. Thanks!

OMG Amazingly talented

Fabulous - wishing my school art classes were like this

What inspiring talent in our community

Made me smile

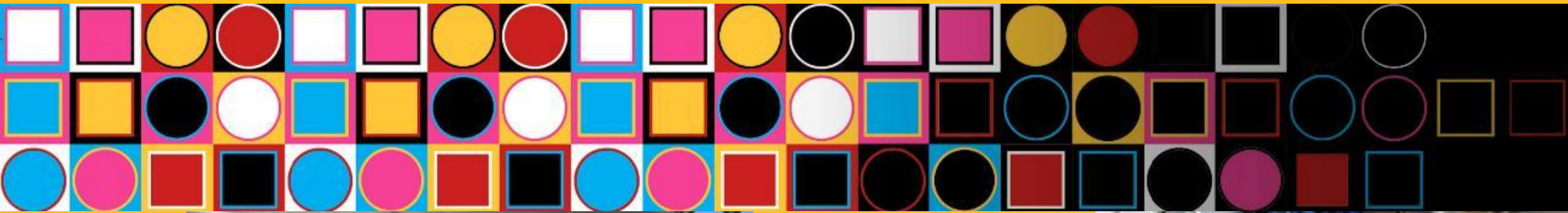
A real treat!!!

Great to find you so close to home

Great seeing different styles

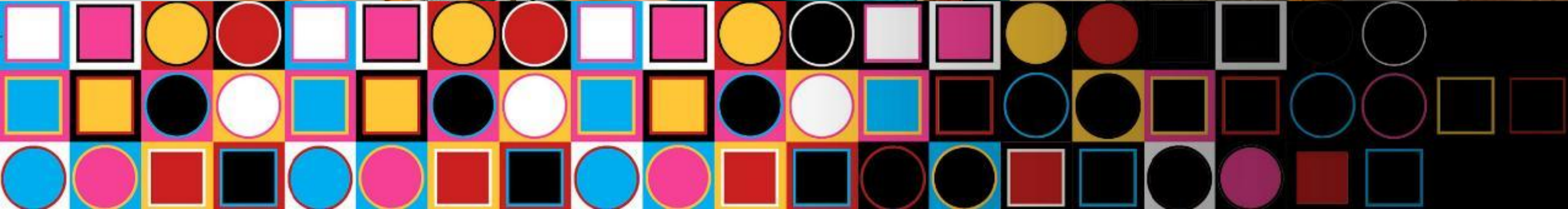
Fantastic to see our local artists

lovely - make it regular

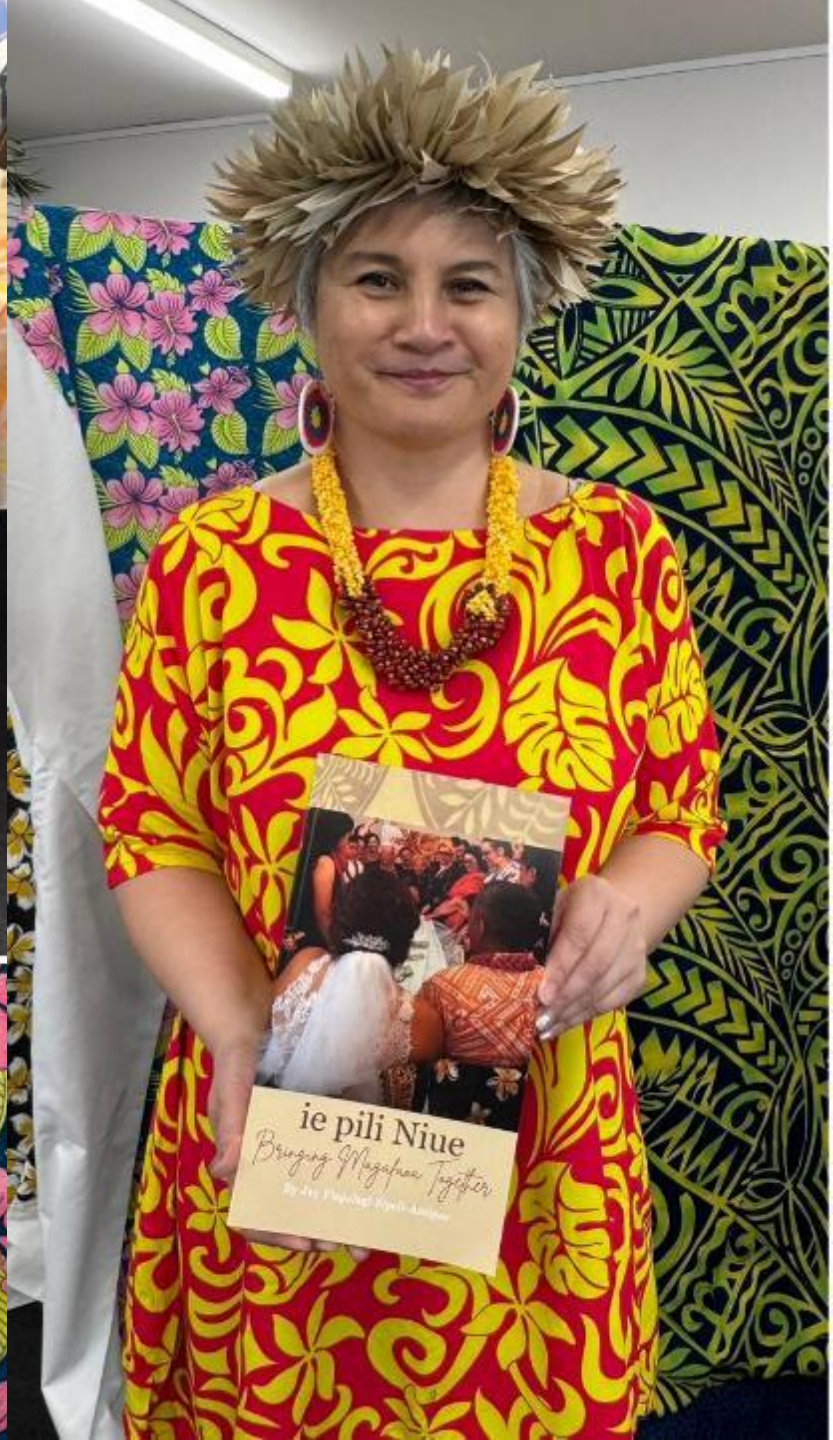


*The talented
Amanda Stowers,
of Masina Creative*





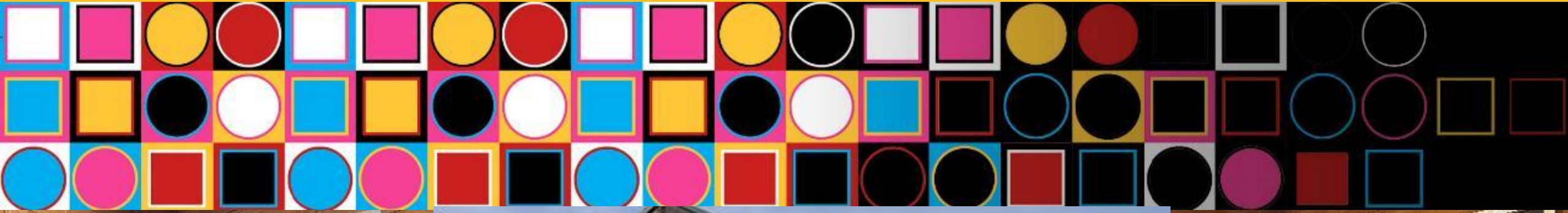
The Menz Shed, Naenae

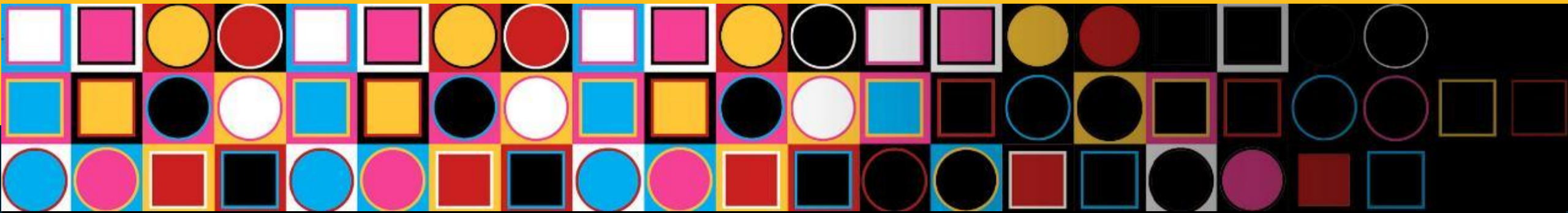


*The Pacifika Hub,
Central Hutt*

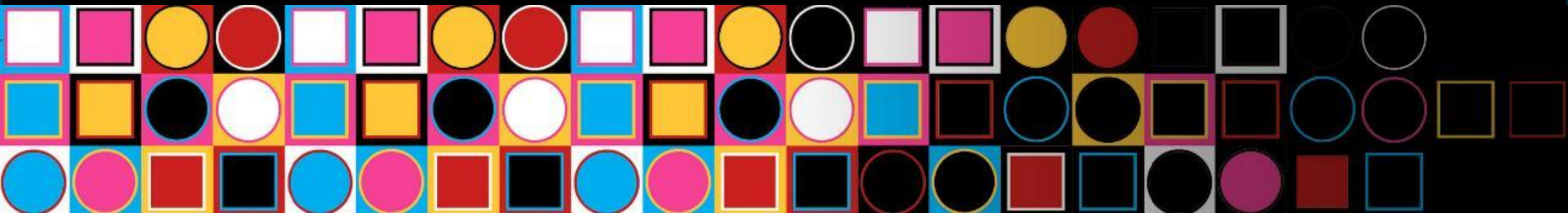


The historic Petone Police Station hosted Leon Ramikers, Emma West, Brendan Martin, Jo Evans and Emmi.





“Words don’t express how awesome and energising it was to visit, meet and talk with artists, bump into friends from elsewhere, and sometimes a combo of those things all together” – Cr Karen ‘Kaz’ Yung

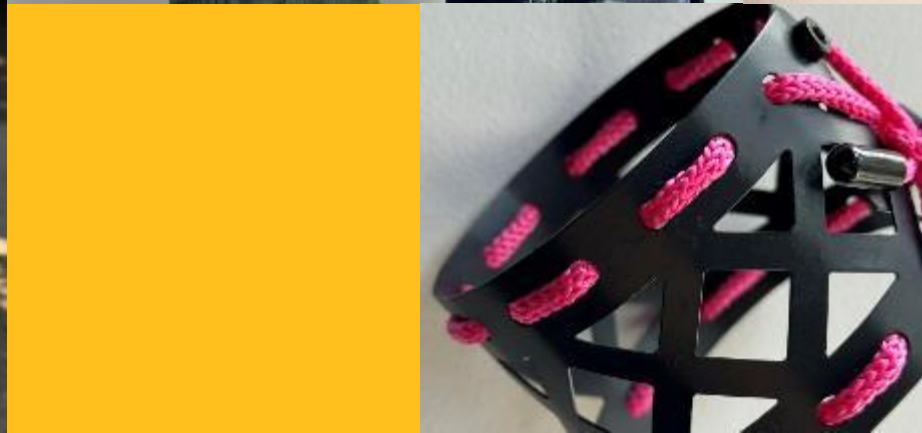
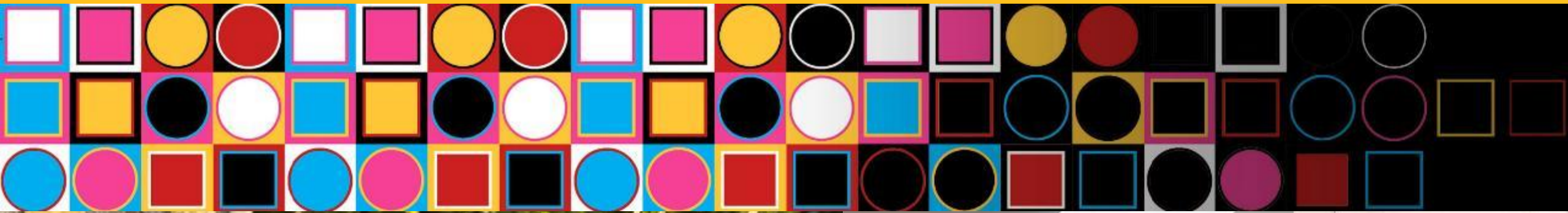


The Rainbow Hub was host to Johannes Mueller-Welschof and Caitlin Thomas-Riley





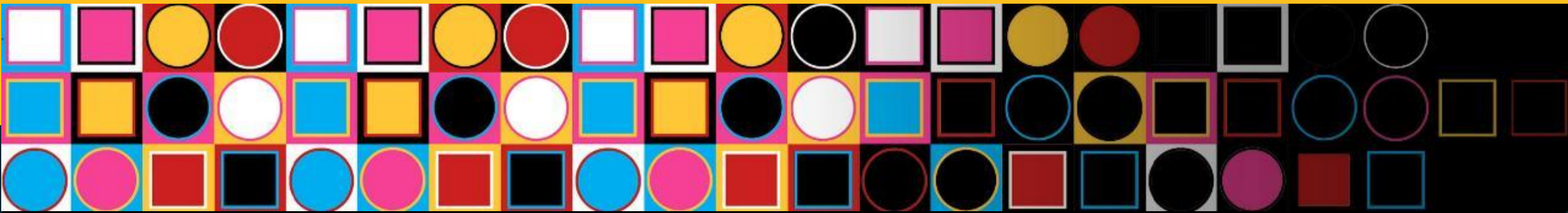
The Chinese Painters exhibited their beautiful watercolours at the Hutt Art Society this year.



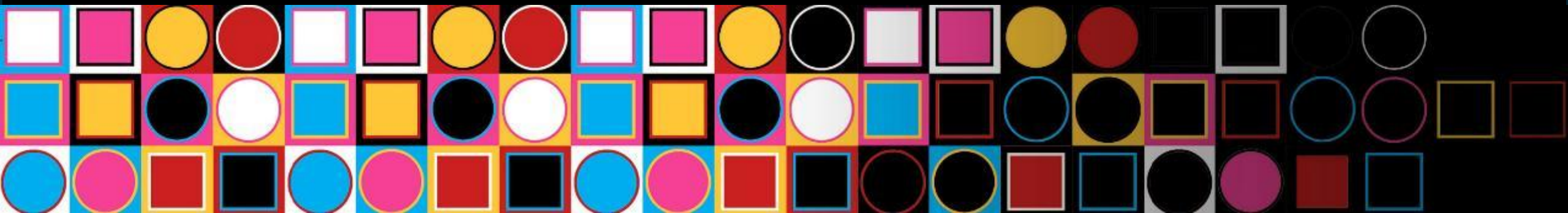


*Bianca Mar'e
and
Liam O'Brian*





*"The collective creative energy during this art trail weekend in Lower Hutt has been off the Richter scale!"
- Lisa, Hutt City FM 106.7*



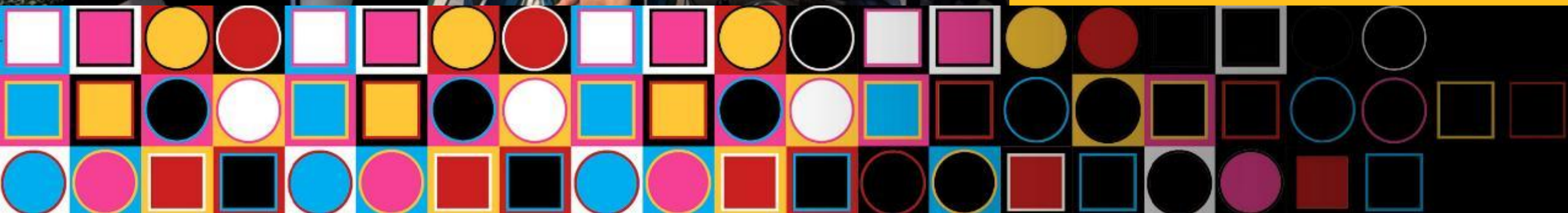


*Textile artist,
Simone Michaux*





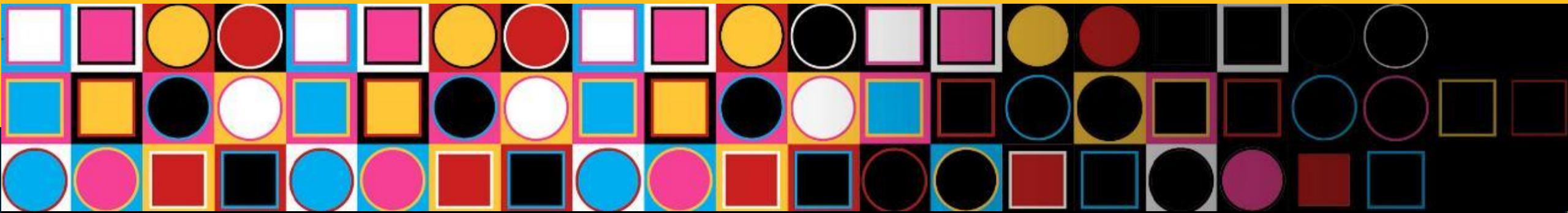
GlaesDesign at Goody Goodness, Petone



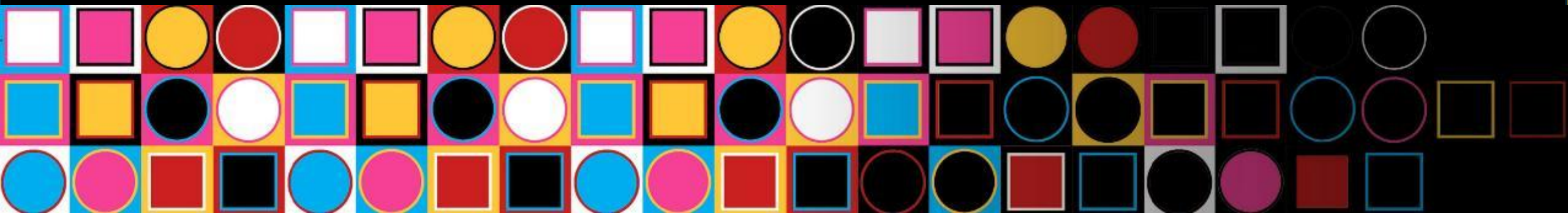


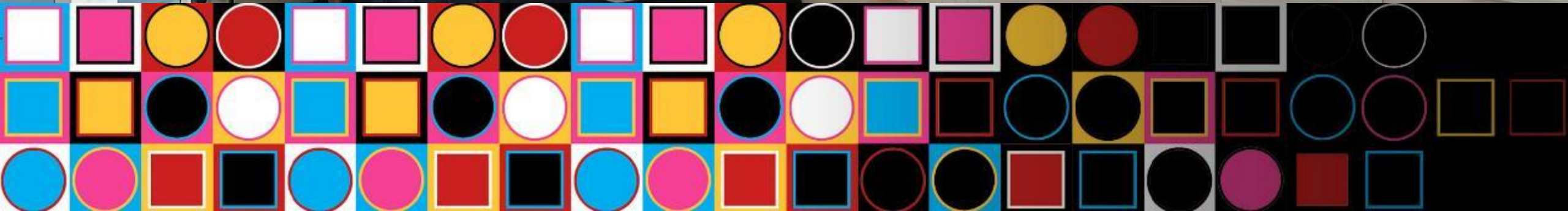
At the Pito One Depot were Sophie Gardiner, Ange Holtslag, Simon Hurley, Hayley Lowe and Katie Krisp





“Wish it was on longer than just a weekend though, too much to see!” – Cr Brady Dyer







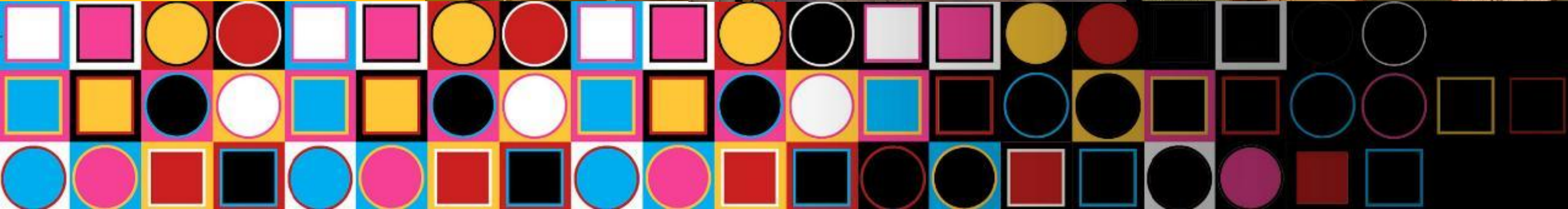
*The Learning
Connexion, Taita*



The Rainbow Hub on High Street in Central Lower Hutt was a new pop up venue for 2025.



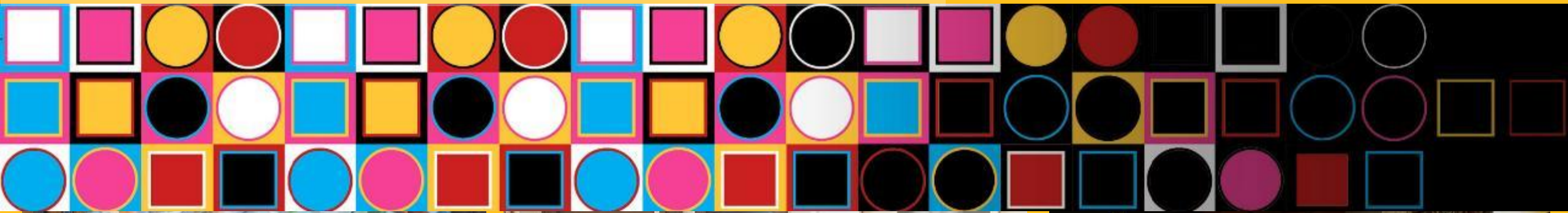
Dorian Everard, Etanah Lalau-Talapa, Jasmine Leota and Becky Start

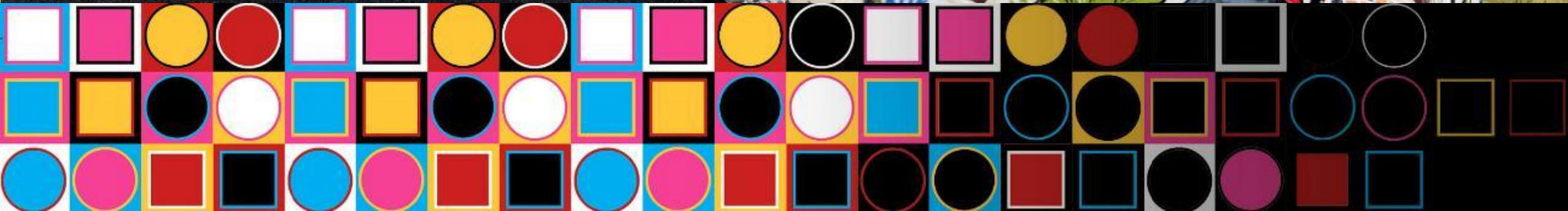


Te Mako Community Centre, Naenae

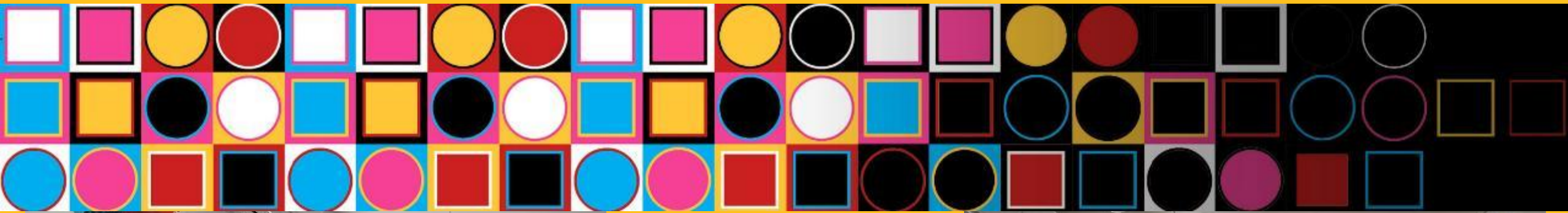


Hutt Art Society

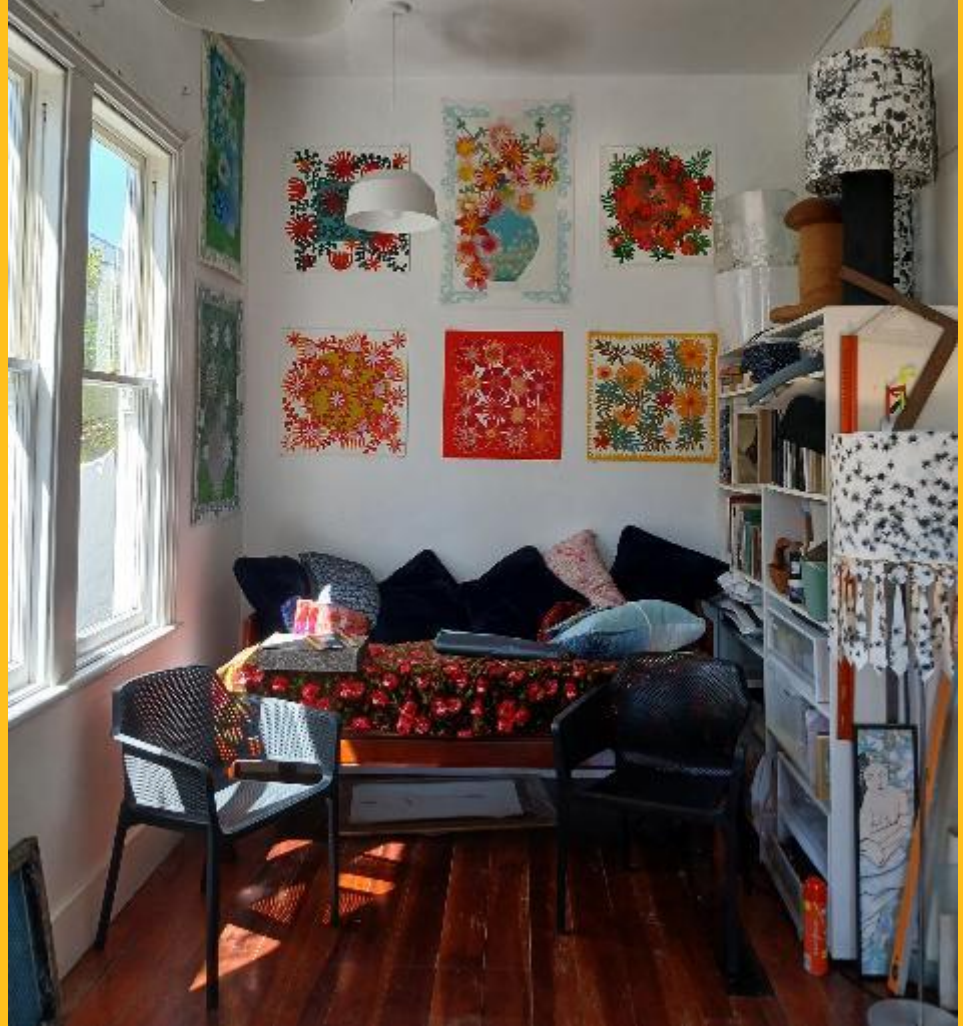




Pepper Curry (Pepper Raccoon)

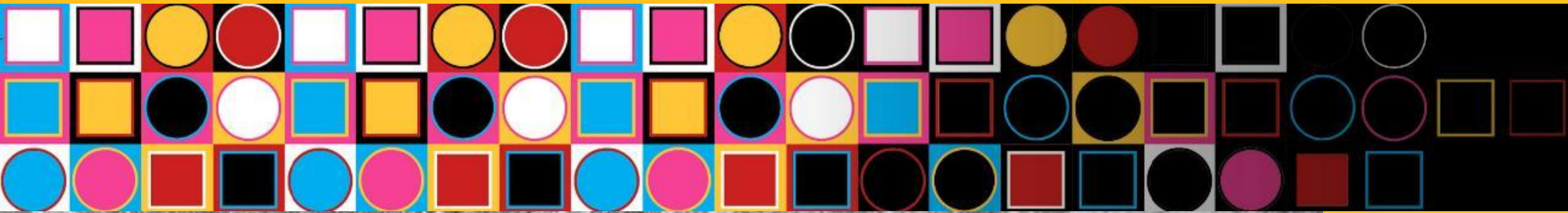


Linda Evangaline-Smith



Sarah Albisser Art



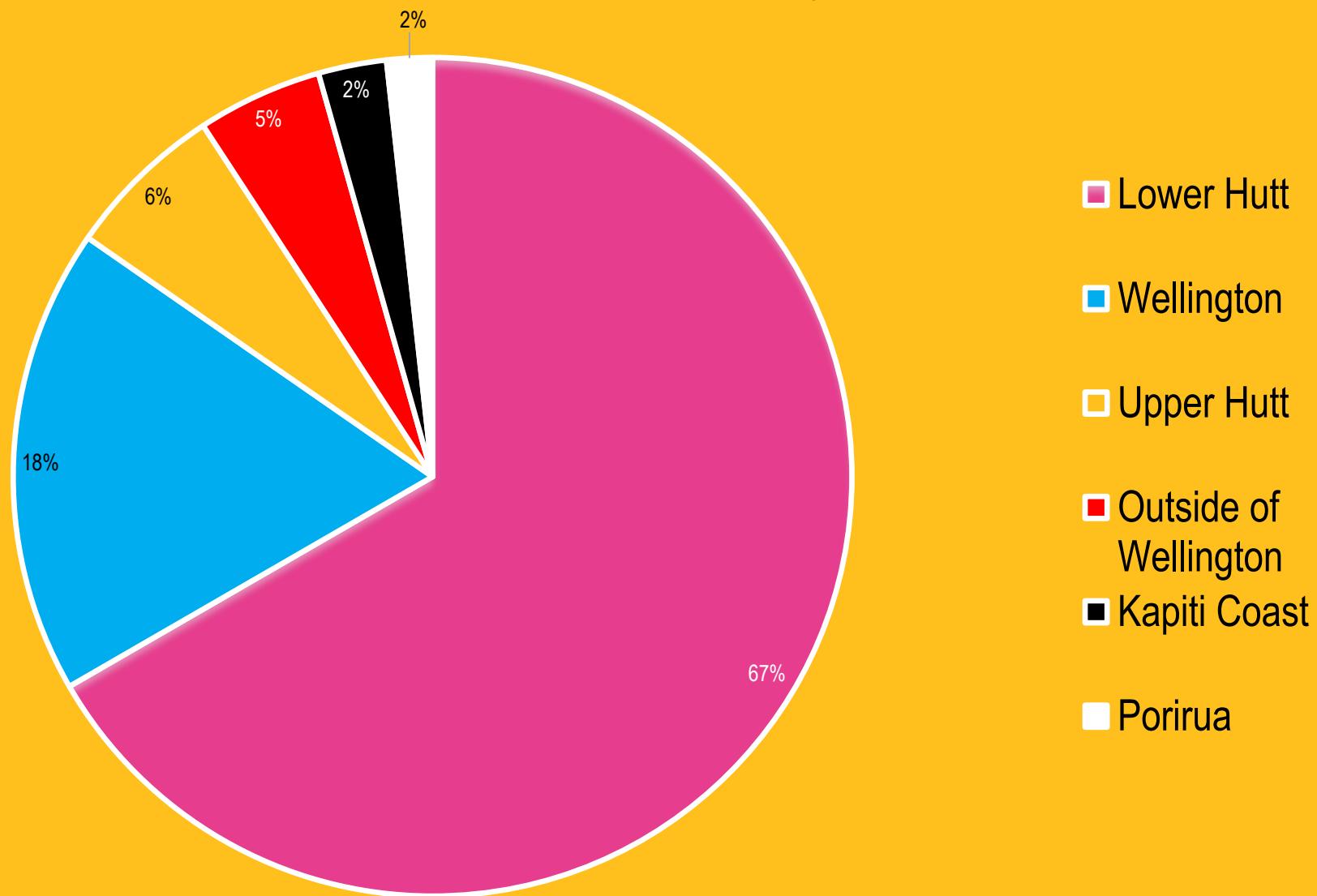


Anna Campbell

*Marion Linton, at
Alfred Memelink
Art Space*



Where did our visitors come from?



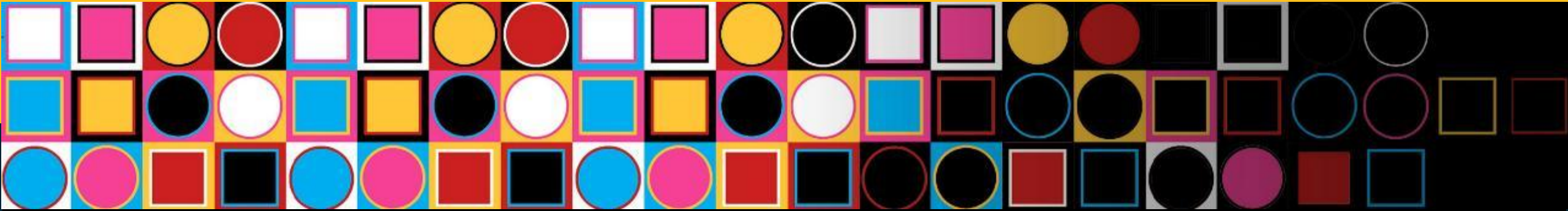


inspiring wonderful
great lovely trail
amazing creative COOL welcoming
beautiful designs
fabulous
work prints
gorgeous objects
fantastic



Te Ara Toi
o Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai

*Visitors were
overwhelmingly
positive in their
comments.*



Thank you to all participating artists , visitors, supporters and sponsors!
The Lower Hutt Art Trail will be back
on Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th of October 2026

