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 K O L O S E :
 T H E A R T O F
 T U V A L U
 C R O C H E T
 *
 F A F I E N I U T A O I A O T E A R O A

SUNDAY 18 MAY -- SUNDAY 29 JUNE

Cover image:
 Auckland Niutao community performing a Tuvalu fatele (dance) at the exhibition opening:
Dancers (L-R): Moevale Tila, Puapapae Papau, Malama Sione & Melelusi Tepapauoatua.
 Back – Fulu Fomai, Pitaani Patelika (obscured), Sinoi F Sione & Lakena Tepapauoatua.
Singers (L-R): Front – Tepae Keakea, Solomon Matagi (obscured) & Alefata Kauapi.
 Back – Tapaaki Fakamilo, Paipule Taalo, Siatunu Nofoaiga & Lepele Tausilii.

Image above:
Mea teu fale (Crochet wall hanging) made of wool by Manapule Sione hanging above the entrance to the exhibition.

E aualofa atu ai kite moe fakalofa ko Takoi Palama Papau

Aso fanau: Po 3 Iuni 1963 Malolo: Po 21 Mati 2014

Dedicated to the loving memory of Takoi Palama Papau

Sunrise 3 June 1963 Sunset 21 March 2014

**Alefata Kauapi
Famuli Vanele**

**Melina Nuese
Mokiana Kani**

**Gae Taolopa
Lakena Tepapauoatua**

**Pitaani Patelika
Seitani Savaka**

**Lakiloko Keakea
Lepele Tauasili**

**Siatunu Nofoaiga
Solepa Koukou**

Lisepa Laufou

Susi Manulele

Litia Vione

Tafi Keakea

Lotolelei Tinipua

Tapaaki Fakamilo

**Manapule Sione
Matelina Kaitapu**

**Teatua Kani
Tenini Tila
Uesi Tinipua**

Fafine Niutao i Aotearoa

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I te tausaga 2012 te vasega fafine Niutao i Aotearoa ne maopoopo o palani se tusaga i galuega fai a latou mote fono o te Ekalesia Kelisiano Tuvalu, e fono i taki lua tausaga i Tuvalu. Fenua takitasi o te atufenua e fakasolo o tausi te usugafono i luga i tena fenua. Te masina o Setema 2014, te fonotaga a te Ekalesia ka fai ite fenua ko Niutao, te Ekalesia Kelisiano Niutao ka tausi ne ia te usugafono. Se mafutaga fiafia e fakamanatu ai a tuu mo aganu o Tuvalu fakatasi mo te faiga o te fonotaga a te Ekalesia. Soko atu ai ko te aso fakamanatu o Niutao tela ko te Setema. E tokouke fafine i te vasega fafine Niutao i Aotearoa ne palani mai te lua tausaga ke olo latou nei mo te malaga ki te fonotaga i Niutao. Te tokoukega o latou ko te taimi muamua o foki atu ki Niutao talu mai te taimi ne mai ei ki Niusila.

Te vasega fafine Niutao i Aotearoa e vaevae ki potukau taki toko faa kite toko ono fafine, e mau ai o fai sulu fakaalo e tolusefulu mo teuteu te falesa ite fenua ko Niutao. Alefata Kauapi ko ia e lasi tena atamai ite faiga o sulu fakaalo konei tela ko ia ne akoako ne ia fafine o te vasega. Te takitaki o te vasega ko Siatunu Nofoaiga, ana muna;

“Se galuega faigata te faiga o te sulu fakaalo. E tasi te aso o te vaiaeso e potopoto ai matou fafine o fai te kolose. Se taimi e gali o kaufakatas matou o usu pese kae fakamasua tala i taimi koi foliliki ei matou i luga ite motou fenua ko Niutao. E gali ailoa te maopoopo penei. E taua te faka’tau fesoafesoani me manakomia ke teu ne matou te fenua ko Niutao ke sili atu tena gali ki nisi fenua.”



Image left: **Sulu fakaalo (Crocheted sheet) 2014**
L-R: Litia Vione, Siatunu Nofoaiga, Solepa Koukou, Lakena Tepapauoatua (absent – Tafi Keakea and Lakiloko Keakea).

Image right: **Making of Sulu fakaalo (Crocheted sheet) 2014**
Fafine Niutao i Aotearoa

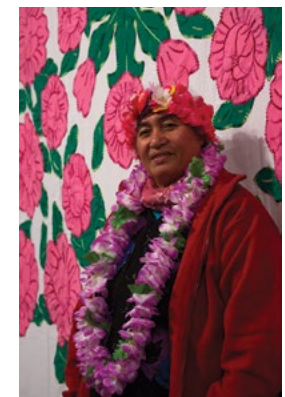
Image far right: **Sulu fakaalo (Crocheted sheet) 2007**
Alefata Kauapi

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In 2012 the womens' collective *Fafine Niutao i Aotearoa* came together to create works for the Fono Ekalesia Tuvalu, a bi-annual church gathering held in Tuvalu. Each of the eight main islands in Tuvalu take turns in hosting the gathering and the event is a great source of pride for the host island. In September 2014, it will be hosted by the Ekalesia Niutao church on Niutao Island. The gathering is a celebration of Tuvalu culture along with church activities, followed by the annual Niutao Island celebration event called Setema. Many of the women in the collective have been planning for several years to make the journey home for this event. For most it will be their first time to return to Niutao since they migrated to New Zealand.

Fafine Niutao i Aotearoa worked in groups of four to six to make 30 sulu fakaalo (crocheted sheets) to decorate the Ekalesia Niutao church. Alefata Kauapi was one of the more experienced members that took the lead in teaching others how to make a sulu fakaalo. The leader of the group, Siatunu Nofoaiga, states that:

“It’s a hard job to make the sulu fakaalo. We meet one day a week and do the kolose. We have fun, we sing together and share memories about Niutao. Sometimes we tell stories about when we were young. It’s nice to come together. It is so important to help and we want to make Niutao more beautiful than other islands.”





(L-R) Gatu kolose (Crocheted tops) by Seitani Savaka and Lakiloko Keakea (2014), made by Lisepa Laufou for Tapaaki Fakamilo (2002) & made by Uesi Tinipua for her daughter Lotolelei Tinipua (2012).

Gatu kolose
These crocheted tops are made from recycled plastic bottles and are a traditional Hawaiian garment. They are made by hand and are a popular item of clothing in Hawaii. The tops are made from a variety of colors and patterns, and are often worn as a traditional Hawaiian garment. The tops are made from a variety of colors and patterns, and are often worn as a traditional Hawaiian garment.



(Top–bottom) **Fele (Crocheted borders for petticoats)** both made in 2001 by Tapaaki Fakamilo and Lisepa Laufou.

(L–R) **Gatu kolose (Crocheted dresses)** made by Lakiloko Keakea for her daughter Nele Keakea (2009), made by Melina Nuese as a gift for her granddaughter Afelini Temaka (2008), made by Uesi Tinipua as a gift for her great-niece Noama Vione (2012) and made by Teatua Kani as a gift for her granddaughter Angela Tuilaepa (2005).

Te Kolose: Te fakaasiga o mea taulima a Tuvalu

Malama Papau ma Kolokesa U. Māhina-Tu'ai, fuligina ne Lopiani ma Violeta Papau.

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Te Kolose se tasi o mea e faigina ne fafine Tuvalu i Aotearoa, Niusila pela foki mo Tuvalu. Te fakaasiga o mea taulima Tuvalu tenei, ko te taimi muamua ne fakaasi i fakaasiiga o mea taulima i Niusila nei. Te faiga fakaasiga tenei o mea taulima se mea e masani tino Tuvalu i luga i Niusila nei o fakaasi o olotou galuega kolose i mea fai, fakaalai i tuu faka-Tuvalu. Fafine e pei gatu kolose ki lotu, fakaala, togiga i fatele pela foki me so se taimi e fia pei ei ne te fafine tona gatu kolose. E fakaoga foki mo fai a mea alofa i aso taua i tuu faka-Tuvalu e fakalakei ai te faigamea.

Te atu fenua ko Tuvalu e tuu ki te faitu ki maatu o Niusila kite ekueta. A ia ko te faa o atu fenua foliki i te lalolagi, e iva fenua i ei mo te fuainumela o tino e silia malie loa ite sefulu afe. Tuvalu i aso mua e taku ko te atufenua ko Elise, fakamuli ifo ne taku a ia ki te kolone o Kilipati mo Elise kae ne tu-tokotasi a ia ite tausaga 1978. Tino Tuvalu e isi foki ne olotou gafa e tau atu ki tino Samoa, Tokelau, Tonga mo 'Uvea. Ko tino o te fenua ko Nui e toko uke tino e tau o olotu gafa ki te atufenua ko Kilipati. I luga i Niusila nei e tusa mo te tolu mote afa afe o tino Tuvalu e ola i Niusila, te lasiga o latou e nonofo i Aukilani ki te togaala.

Te Kolose: Te fakaasiga o mea taulima a Tuvalu, ne fakaasi ei a vaega kolose kesekese ne faigina ne te vasega fafine Niutao i Aotearoa i luga ite fa'kaii ko Ranui. E aofia i fafine konei, fafine mai fakakai ko Henderson, Massey, Te Atatu, Mangere, Otahuhu mo Pukekohe. E tino faa fafine Niutao konei, mai te matua ko te 16 tausaga kite 73 tausaga. Se mea masani e faigina ne fafine Niutao o fai olotou galuega kolose i faigamea o te Tuvalu. Pitaani Patelika se tokotasi o tino atamai i te kolose, ana muna, *"Te kolose e gali me seai se tulafono e fakagataa ai te koga e fai ai tau kolose. So se koga e fano aku, e masani o tuku aku mea kolose i lotu i taku ato."* Te fakaasiga o meataulima tenei ki mea kolose e aumai ne ia se avanoaga ke iloa mai ei te atamai tenei mote galuega kolose tela e se masani o fakaasi i fakaasiga o mea taulima i Niusila nei.

I sautalaga mo isi tino 'poto i te kolose, a te mafuaga o te poto kite kolose i luga i Niutao e se loo ko taua, kae euina loa ite faitu tena kae se vaega e faigina i tu mo aganu o te fenua. E tokouke fafine e kau i te vasega o fafine Niutao tenei ne kamata latou o kolose kae koi foliki latou. Nisi o latou e molimau me ne iloa ne latou o kolose mai te vasega fafine Niutao ite laumua ote Tuvalu, te fenua ko Funafuti, fafine tenei ko Pelise Tofiga ite tausaga 1930. Tafi Keakea a ia ko 15 ona tausaga kae ko akoga kite kolose mo nisi tamaliki fafine ite vasega fafine ote lotu (girls brigade) ne te avaga ate faifeau. A ia nei ne iloa ne ia o kolose i te fenua ko Panapa i te taimi ne galue ei tena avaga i kona. Lakiloko Keakea ne iloa ne ia o kolose ite 1971 koi galue ai a ia mo tena avaga muamua i Kilipati. A ia ne kau kite vasega o fafine o te lotou lotu kae fai mea kolose latou.

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E fakaasi mai ei me i te kolose se poto tela e akoakogina foki ne nisi fenua. Ne oko te poto ki tino Tuvalu tela ko fai ei se mea taua mote aoga kia latou.

E tolusefulu – valu vaega kesekese o galuega kolose ne fakatokagina ne fafine e tino lua mote tokotolu mai te vasega fafine Niutao i Aotearoa. Ko galuega kolose tai faigata ite fai ko gatu kolose mo lavalava kolose. Ko gatu kolose konei e aofia mai ai ko gatu mailuga mo lavalava e peigina i faiga o togiga o fafine mo tamaliki fafine e mamako i fatele. E mafai foki o pei mai lotu, manafai se gatu manifinifi e peei mai tua, ko te lavalava e tatau o fakasae te vaega kolose ki lalo. E isi foki ne gatu e se uke te kolose e fakaoga ki ei. Te kolose i konei, e fakaoga mo fakagaligali ai te gatu. Muna a Lakiloko Keakea, *"E taua, ki aku, te matua, te tupuna, ke matea ki oku mata aku tama mo oku mokopuna fafine e peei mai ki olotou gatu kolose, e fakaasii ei oku tugalima kolose kae agatilo foki au kia latou."* Ko galuega kolose konei e se fakaogagina ne ata fakaakoako, kae e kolose fua kite atamai o te tino.

Ko galuega kolose konei e fakaoga mo teuteu ai a te fale io me ko te falesa, mea teufale e tautau ite pupui ote fale, ko fafetu e tolu, ko mea fola i lotu ite falesa, laugatu e fola i luga ite tulaga. Mai mea kolose konei, e isi e kese te gali, e ata fakatea loa a lanu o latou manafai e fakapau ki nise galuega kolose. Te panipani, se pulaketi e fakaoga fua mo aso fakapitoa i te kaiga. I aso o faipoipoga, e uke tagaaluga kolose e masani o fakaoga mo fai te moega o te tauavaga fou. Te sulu fakaalo – se tasi o te tolusefulu galuega kolose mote falesa i te fenua ko Niutao, e kese mai tena gali ite fakaasiga o mea taulima a fafine Niutao i Aotearoa nei.

Te Kolose, e masani o fakatoka mo fai a mea alofa i aso fakapitoa. Te ukēga o galuega kolose konei ne fakaasi ite fale taulima, e faite mo fai a mea alofa i aso tāua.

Ko gatu kolose, lavalava kolose mo tagāuluga. E fakamealofagina ne te matua, se tupuna io me se faka-matua i aso taua penei mo aso fanau, katoaga o te tausaga muamua ote tamaliki, ko aso tamaliki ite masina o Oketopa. Te taimi ne pei ei te gatu kolose a Teliu Keakea ne faigina ne tena tupuna ko Lakiloko Keakea, ana muna, *"te gatu tenei e fakaasi mai te alofa mo te atafai o toku tupuna kia te aku."* Ko tagāluga e masani o fakamealofa i aso fanau, ko faipoipoga, io me ko tino o te kaiga e faimālaga ki nisi fenua. Ko te sulu fakaalo e faitegina ne te tupuna-fafine o ave mo tena mokopuna fafine, Alefata Kauapi e isi sena sulu fakaalo ne 'kave mo tena mokopuna fafine ko Alefata Enoto me te katoaga o tena lima tausaga.

E isi se ata vitio pela foki mote ata fakasolo i silaisi, e tala mai ai te mafuaga mo te taua o galuega kolose i lotu i te tuu mo aganu o te atufenua. Ko te vitio e fakaasi mai faiga fatele o te fenua ko Niutao i luga i Aukilani. Ko ata, e aofia ai fafine Niutao e

peei mai ki gatu kolose, fafine e fai olotou galuega kolose mo ata ai o sulu fakaalo e tolusefulu kae koi tuai o ave ite vaka kite fenua ko Niutao. E isi ne ata o tino i te vitio mo ata peipei, latou e pei mai ki gatu kolose i te taimi o te fakaasiga o meataulima, ko galuega kolose ne fai ne latou ki olotou lima mote aso ote fakaasiga pela mo galuega kolose mo latou totino.

Te tino foliki loa ite vasega, ko Malama Sione ko 16 ona tausaga, e i o ia te ata ite laupepa muamua o te kataloka tenei. Te tupuna o Malama, Segali Sione, ko oti ne foki ki Tuvalu, a ia se tasi o fafine ne kau ki te vasega Fafine Niutao i Aotearoa. A ia ko suigina ne tena mokopuna i te faiga o tena tusaga i te kolosega o sulu fakaalo e tolusefulu mo te Lotu ite fenua ko Niutao. Malama ko atamai ite galuega kolose, tela ko isi ne ana tagaaluga ne kolose ne ia. Moevale Tila ko sefuluvalu ona tausaga, a ia e se lavea ne ia te taua mo te gali o galuega kolose, e uina loa a ia ne ola ake i tino poto ite kolose kae pei ki gatu kolose, a ko ia e se malamalama ite taua mote gali o galuega kolose. Ne'fuli ona mafaufauga talu mai te taimi ne taumata ai ona mata ki galuega kolose i te fakaasiga o mea taulima i loto i te fale meataulima. Tona matua ko Tenini Tila se tokotasi o fafine e poto ite kolose, tela a ia ko fai mo tena faiakoga ite kolose.

Lakiloko Keakea se fafine poto ite kolose, a ia e manavase manafai e galo atu te poto tenei. Ana muna, *"a talavou fafine e tatau o akoako latou ke popoto o kolose, ona ko iloga konei o tatou kae maise loa mo tatou konei e nofo i Niusila nei."* Tena mokopuna matua, Teliu Keakea, sefulu-fitu ona tausaga, ko iloa ne ia te taua o muna o tena tupuna. Ana muna me i tena tupulaga, ka fakasoko kae fakatumau te poto mo te iloa o fai te kolose e iloa ai i a latou ne tino Tuvalu. *"Toku manatu, te kolose se galuega e fakafiafia loto kae seiloa ne aku me i mea kolose a nisi fenua o te Pasefika e pa'u mo faiga kolose a fafine Niutao."*

Kolose: Te fakaasiga o te poto Kolose faka – Tuvalu se tusaga e tāua kae aoga ne fai ne te fakapotopotoga fafine Niutao i Aotearoa nei. Ko mea fakaasi a te tino lua mo te tokotolu fafine Niutao konei ko fai mo mea e fakatumau kae fakasoko te poto kolose i Aotearoa nei. A galuega kolose a latou konei ka fai mo gatu, mea-alofa, pela foki mo mea taulima fakaasi i faigamea i tū mo aganu kesekese i Niusila nei. Mo te vaitaimi nei, tino mai tua atu o te aganu faka- Niutao ko mafai o mālamalama kae amanaia ne latou te kamataga, te mafuliga faopoopo o te poto mo te kese mai te gali o galuega kolose faka-Tuvalu.



Tapaaki Fakamilo, at 72 years old, is the oldest artist featured in the exhibition.



Members of fenua Niutao (Niutao community) at the exhibition opening. Back (L–R) Malama Sione, Puapapae Papau, Selai Keakea, Lotolelei Tinipua, Moevale Tila, Melelusi Tepapauoatua & Vania Matagi. Front (L–R) Grace Liapaneke & Liuvaka Keakea.



Fafine Niutao i Aotearoa at the opening of their exhibition *Kolose: The Art of Tuvalu Crochet*, Māngere Arts Centre – Ngā Tohu o Uenuku, Saturday May 17, 2014.

Kolose: The Art of Tuvalu Crochet

Marama Papau and Kolokesa U. Māhina-Tuai, translated by Lopiani and Violeta Papau.

¹⁶ Kolose or crochet is one of the key art forms practiced by Tuvaluan women in Aotearoa New Zealand and in their homeland. *Kolose: The Art of Tuvalu Crochet* is the first Tuvalu exhibition in a mainstream art gallery. The concept and practice of exhibitions, however, is not foreign to the Tuvalu community who regularly exhibit and display their works in various cultural contexts.ⁱ These contexts include wearing kolose to church, on special occasions, as part of female dance costumes and as casual wear. They are gifted during special occasions and used to add a unique Tuvaluan décor. This demonstrates the symbiotic relationship between art and culture in Tuvaluan life.

Tuvalu is located 3,739.51 km north of New Zealand, close to the equator. It is the fourth smallest country in the world and is made up of nine islands with a total population of just over 10,000 people. Tuvalu was formerly known as Ellice Islands and later as part of the Gilbert (Kiribati) and Ellice Islands colony until it became independent in 1978. Tuvaluans have ancestral links to Sāmoa, Tokelau, Tonga and 'Uvea with the island of Nui having strong links to Kiribati. There are over 3,500 Tuvaluans living in New Zealand, the majority reside in the Auckland region with many based in West Auckland.

Kolose: The Art of Tuvalu Crochet exhibition features a selection of kolose works from the Ranui-based womens' collective *Fafine Niutao i Aotearoa* which include members from Henderson, Massey, Te Atatu, Māngere, Ōtāhuhu and Pukekohe. The women in the collective are from Niutao Island, Tuvalu with around 40 members aged between 16 and 73 years. It is not uncommon to see Niutao women working on their kolose at Tuvalu social events. One of the key artists in the show, Pitaani Patelika says, "It's a good skill to have as there are no limits where you kolose. I take my kolose everywhere in my bag, so I have it always."ⁱⁱ The exhibition provides an opportunity to understand and appreciate the knowledge and skills that go into creating such intricate and exquisite kolose works. It offers a rare and valuable insight into this aspect of the Tuvaluan culture in New Zealand, and raises an awareness and the profile of artists that would not normally feature in mainstream arts contexts.

For the artists, the exact origins of kolose in Niutao is not of significance, but many remember when they were young their own mothers practicing kolose. Others spoke of learning from Niutao women who had learned kolose while living in the Tuvalu capital of Funafuti, such as Pelise Tofiga in the early 1930s.ⁱⁱⁱ Tafi Keakea was taught at the age of 15, along with others in the Girls Brigade, by the Minister's wife who had learned in Banaba when her husband was working there.^{iv} Lakiloko Keakea's first husband worked in Kiribati in 1971 and while living there she was involved in

a church-based womens' group that practiced kolose.^v Such examples illustrate the cross-cultural influences that have been adopted and over time adapted to develop something unique to Tuvalu.

This exhibition features 38 works representing different forms of kolose made by 23 artists from *Fafine Niutao i Aotearoa*. The more elaborate kolose items include gatu kolose (crocheted tops and dresses) and lavalava kolose (crocheted petticoats). Components of these crocheted tops and petticoats make up an adult and young child's costume worn for Tuvalu fatele (dance). They can also be worn underneath a sheer garment or in such a way that the crocheted border of the lavalava kolose is showing below the outer garment. There are garments with minimal kolose for which however the decorative elements still provide a distinctive feature. Artist Lakiloko Keakea says, "It means a lot to me as a mother and grandmother for my daughters and grand-daughters to wear kolose, not only to show off my kolose works but also to show off my daughters and grand-daughters."^{vi} These works are not made following a set pattern but are created freestyle by each artist.

Kolose works are also used to decorate one's home or church, such as the mea teu fale (crocheted wall hanging), the three fafetu (star shaped wall hangings), the mea fola falesa (crocheted cover for church) and the laugatu ote tulaga ote falesa (church pulpit cover). While some works are more elaborate and colourful than others, they all use a variety of resources that involve repurposing and reusing materials or embellishing a ready-made item. The panipani (crocheted blanket) is used to adorn the home on special occasions. During weddings, many taga aluga (pillow cases) with crocheted borders are used to decorate a bride and groom's bed for their wedding night. The special sulu fakaalo (crocheted sheet) – one of 30 made to decorate the Ekalesia Niutao Church on Niutao Island in Tuvalu, is one of the key works by *Fafine Niutao i Aotearoa* in this exhibition.

Kolose are often made for and gifted on special occasions. Many works in the exhibition serve this purpose, such as gatu kolose, lavalava kolose and taga aluga. These are made and gifted by a mother, grandmother or great-aunt for occasions such as first birthdays or the annual children's service Aso Tamaliki (White Sunday), held during the month of October. When Teliu Keakea wears the gatu kolose (crocheted dress) that her nana and artist Lakiloko Keakea makes, she feels proud and acknowledges that it "...shows how much my nana cares for me because she made it for me." The taga aluga are often gifted to relatives for occasions such as birthdays, weddings or when a family member leaves to go abroad. Sulu fakaalo can also be

made by a grandmother for her grandchildren such as the one made by Alefata Kauapi for her granddaughter and namesake Alefata Enote on her 5th birthday.

Film footage and a slideshow of photographs contextualises the exhibited kolose works. The film shows different Tuvalu fatele from members of the Niutao Island community in Auckland.^{vii} The photographs show Niutao women and children wearing kolose, women making kolose and a community exhibition of all 30 completed sulu fakaalo before being shipped to Niutao.^{viii} Some of the people featured in the film and photographs are either wearing kolose which are included in the exhibition or have works on display that they made or were made especially for them.

The youngest member of the group, Malama Sione is 16 years old and is featured on the front cover of this catalogue. Malama's grandmother, Segali Sione had to return to Tuvalu, so Malama joined *Fafine Niutao i Aotearoa* in her place to assist in making the 30 sulu fakaalo for Niutao. Malama is familiar with kolose having previously made a taga aluga (pillow case). For 18 year old Moevale Tila, this exhibition changed her perception of kolose. Although she had grown up in a cultural environment where kolose is made and worn, she had not appreciated their value and beauty as works of art until seeing them displayed in a gallery space. Her mother, Tenini Tila is one of the artists featured in the exhibition and Moevale is now interested in learning kolose from her.

Artist Lakiloko Keakea has concerns about the art form being lost and says that *"The youth need to learn kolose, because it symbolises who we are. Especially being here in New Zealand."*^{ix} Her eldest grand-daughter, 17 year old Teliu Keakea is mindful of her nana's words and is keen to learn from her. Teliu says her generation can then continue and maintain the knowledge and skills as that is how others recognize Tuvaluans, by their kolose. *"I think kolose is really creative because I don't know any other Pacific Island that does kolose in the way that our ladies do it."*^x

Kolose: The Art of Tuvalu Crochet exhibition is a tribute to the fine artists of *Fafine Niutao i Aotearoa* womens' collective. All 23 artists in the show play a significant role in maintaining and continuing the art of kolose in Aotearoa New Zealand. These women artists will continue to make, wear, gift and exhibit their kolose in various cultural contexts. It is only now that everyone else outside of these cultural contexts will gain an insight and appreciation of the ingenuity, innovation and sophistication of the art and artists of Tuvalu kolose.

- i On Monday April 21 2014 Fafine Niutao i Aotearoa held a one day exhibition for the Niutao Island community in Ranui, Auckland of 30 sulu fakaalo (crocheted sheets). Refer to pages 3 & 4, 14 & 15.
- ii P Patelika, Personal Communication, 30 May 2014.
- iii T Fakamilo, Personal Communication, 30 May 2014.
- iv Tafi Keakea, Personal Communication, 31 May 2014. Tuvaluans were recruited as phosphate workers for both Banaba and Nauru and women that accompanied their husbands would bring back artistic knowledge and practice that was adopted and adapted in their own homeland.
- v See Ron Brownson [et.al]. Home AKL: Artists of Pacific Heritage in Auckland, Auckland, N.Z.: Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki, 2012, p127.
- vi L Keakea, Personal Communication, 27 May 2014.
- vii The footage was filmed in Henderson, Auckland as part of a Creative New Zealand funded dance and language workshop for youth in July 2011.
- viii The images were taken by Marama Papau and Kolokesa U. Māhina-Tuai between January 2014 to April 2014.
- ix L Keakea, Personal Communication, 27 May 2014.
- x Teliu Keakea, Personal Communication, 27 May 2014.

Fafetu (Star shaped wall hangings) 2013 Lakiloko Keakea

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Lakiloko Keakea ko te fafine tokotasi i loto ite vasega ko oti ne kau atu ki fakaasiga fai o meataulima i Niusila nei. Ite tausaga e 2011–2012 a ia ne filigina ne te fakapotopotoga o mea taulima i Aukilani nei ke fai mai ne ia a fafetu mo te fakaasiga o mea taulima i loto i fale taulima i Aukilani nei (exhibition Home AKL: Artists of Pasific Heritage in Auckland).

Ko fafetu konei e tolu a ia, e faite mai ne ia ite kolose. Ko te faiga ote fafetu e fai mai i palasitiki lanu kesekese e uke e fakaoga mo sasai ai a kako. Ko vasiaga i loto ite fafetu, e tio ki vulu lanu kesekese tela e fakaoga te niila tio ai vulu. Te maina mote gali o lanu e fakaoga i te fafetu e fai ne ia ke gali ite kilo ote mata ki te fafetu pela foki mo nisi meataulima faka-Tuvalu penei mo gatu iluga mo gatu kolose. Te fetu se tasi o fakagaligaliga e masani o lavea I luga i sose mea taulima fai a fafine penei mo fafetu, gatu kolose, ko ula pule mo tuilili, pela foki mo nisi mea taulima faka-Tuvalu. E pela ailoa mo faiga o mea kolose, Lakiloko Keakea e se fakaoga ne ia se ata fakaakoako, e lalaga ai ana mea taulima.

"I aku mea kolose mo aku meataulima e fai, e lasi te fiafia o toku mafaufau o fakaoga a ata mai luga I laugatu mo fai aku fakagaligaliga I luga i aku o titi 'mako i fatele, mekei lalaga pela foki mo aku fafetu."

Lakiloko Keakea is the only artist in the group that has previously exhibited in a mainstream art gallery. In 2011 – 2012 she was commissioned by Auckland Art Gallery to make a fafetu for the exhibition *Home AKL: Artists of Pacific Heritage in Auckland*.

Her three fafetu works in *Kolose: The Art of Tuvalu Crochet* are made of plastic cargo ties, which are wrapped in different coloured ribbons and plastic. The spaces are decorated using a variety of patterns in wool of varying colours using the technique of tio – a type of crochet work, and lalaga – weaving using a needle.

The bright and colourful palette is a distinctive feature of fafetu and other Tuvaluan art forms such as gatu kolose (crocheted tops and dresses). Motifs found on fafetu such as the 'star' are commonly seen in gatu kolose, shell necklaces and other Tuvaluan material culture. Like other kolose artists, Lakiloko's designs are created freehand without patterns.

"In my kolose works I am influenced by designs on other garments. I also use patterns in titi tao (decorative dance skirts), papa mekei (decorated mats) and fafetu."

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Laugatu ote tulaga ote Falesa (Church Pulpit cover) 2010
Pitaani Patelika

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Pitaani Patelika se tokotasi o fafine ne akoako loa a ia ne ia ite tausaga 1979, ko 19 ai ona tausaga. Ne kamata tena fiafia o kolose mai tena taina matua ko Maselaga e kolose te fele o tena lavalava. Pitaani e nofo mo tena talitonuga i te tiute o te fafine ko te nofo ite fale kae taumata mo te lelei o fanau. I tulaga mo te seai o gatu i loto ite sitoa, te matua e naunau tena loto ko ana fanau ke peei ki gatu foou kae gali, e tatau mo ia o poto ite suisui gatu. "e sui ne aku a gatu o aku tama mo mokopuna kite galiga o oku mata."

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Te kolose e taua malosi kia Pitaani mo fai ai ana mealofa ki ana tama fafine, taina, faka-tama a ia fafine, mo ana mokopuna. E fiafia malosi a ia o akoako tena poto kolose e fai ai mo mea fakamanatu o tena olaga e tauavegina ne tena kaiga, ana fanau totino mo ana mokopuna.

"I taimi katoa e fai taku kolose, e fakamalosi ne ia toku loto. Toku mafaufau e mafaufau faeloa ki vaega ata mo fakailoga kesekese e fakagaligali ai aku mea kolose, pela foki mo mataimanu o igoa e fakaoga ne aku I aku fele kolose. Te lasiga o aku mea fakagaligali e aumai ne au mai pepa, ko papa mo nisi mea aka, e fakaoga ne aku mo fai aku mata kolose i aku galuega kolose."

"Gatu kolose se vaega e tasi e fakaasi ei aku se tino Tuvalu mo toku fenua ko Niutao".

Pitaani Patelika is a self-taught kolose artist who began making works at the age of 19, in 1979. She was first interested when she saw her sister Maselega making a fele (crocheted lavalava border). Pitaani believes that in Niutao a woman's role is to look after the home as well as making sure that her children are well cared for. With no clothing stores in the outer island of Niutao, a mother who wanted to adorn her daughter in a new dress would have to make it herself. *"I can make my children and grandchildren pretty with the bright colours, designs and patterns, as I love to dress up my mokopuna [grandchildren]."*

Kolose is important to Pitaani as she likes to make and gift her works to her daughter, cousins, nieces and grandchildren. She wants to pass on her knowledge so that the legacy of kolose is carried on in her family and their own children and grandchildren.

"I do kolose all the time as it keeps me motivated. My mind is always thinking of patterns, shapes, lettering for names that I may put at the bottom of the fele. I get inspiration from posters, mats and other materials, which I then try to kolose in my designs for the various items I make."

"Gatu kolose is part of my heritage of being a Tuvaluan and my fenua which is Niutao".



(L-R) Togiga fatele tamaliki fafine (Girl's dance costume) with gatu kolose (crocheted top) by Tafi Keakea & lavalava kolose (crocheted petticoat) 2005 by Lakiloko Keakea, togiga fatele fafine (woman's dance costume) with gatu kolose 2013 by Lakiloko Keakea.

Works on wall – gatu kolose 2012 by Tafi Keakea & lavalava kolose (crocheted petticoat) 2011 by Melina Nuese; gatu kolose 2003 & lavalava kolose 2013 by Pitaani Patelika; fualoto (crocheted singlet) 2007 by Matelina Kaitapu & lavalava kolose 2013 by Gae Taolopa; fualoto 2004 by Lakiloko Keakea; gatu kolose 2012 by Tapaaki Fakamilo & gatu kolose by Tafi Keakea.

Panipani (Crocheted blanket)
Lepele Tauasili

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Lavalava kolose (Crocheted petticoats) 2013
Melina Nuese

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This publication was produced on the occasion of the exhibition

Kolose: The Art of Tuvalu Crochet

Fafine Niutao i Aotearoa

Sunday 18 May–Sunday 29 June 2014

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Fafine Niutao i Aotearoa

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Images opposite: *Kolose: The Art of Tuvalu Crochet*

exhibition featuring works by Fafine Niutao i Aotearoa

