

Tāniko and Songket Weaving Patterns featured in *GLISTEN*

Tāniko



Installation view of GLISTEN wall with Tāniko patterns, National Gallery Singapore, 2024.

Tāniko is a traditional Māori style of finger weaving. Tāniko patterns are often woven around the borders of korowai (cloaks) and relay Māori stories, histories, and values. Māori weavers' designs consisted of triangles, diamonds, diagonal bars and stepped patterns. These designs were usually worked in black, red, and white.

The featured patterns include the pātikitiki and kaokao patterns. The pātikitiki pattern is usually represented as a repetitive diamond or geometric pattern. Pātikitiki is the word for flounder, symbolising abundance, hospitality and providing for your people. The kaokao pattern refers to protection and resembles a repetitive 'M' shape and is said to represent the rib cage and arms of warriors (haka stance).

Songket



Installation view of GLISTEN wall with Songket patterns, National Gallery Singapore, 2024.

Songket is a textile handwoven in silk or cotton and patterned with gold or silver threads, and Lisa Reihana looked into Malaysian Songket weave patterns for *GLISTEN*, referencing materials such as Malaysia artist Grace Selvanayagam's book, *Songket: Malaysia's Woven Treasure*. Songket is traditionally worn during ceremonial occasions including weddings and religious ceremonies where the colour and grandeur of Songket adds to the occasion, and in the early centuries, Songket was only worn by Malay royalty. The motifs featured in the patterns include the Pucuk Rebung Gigi Yu which fuses the Rebung (bamboo shoot) and shark motifs, the Teratai (lotus) which is associated with Malay culture and religions, and the mangosteen which symbolises the reflection of one's feelings or one's inner self as related to human spiritual state (Dawa, 1997).