

Material Encounters presents a series of handmade woollen support objects within an exhibition environment designed to invite moments of stillness and quiet reflection. Comprising blankets, cushions, daybeds, pillows, and handwoven textiles, the installation creates a space where visitors are encouraged to slow down and engage with the work through touch, stillness, and sensory experience. Rather than functioning as objects for observation alone, the works are activated through use, foregrounding the relationship between body, object, and space.

Visitors are invited to sit, lie, or wrap themselves within the work, allowing moments of stillness to unfold through embodied engagement. The installation creates opportunities for self-care and, when facilitated, experiences of supported care, where the simple act of placing a blanket over another person becomes part of the work's relational dimension. Material forms create the conditions for rest, while the weight, warmth, and tactile qualities of felted wool and handwoven textiles invite present-moment awareness.

The exhibition draws on an experience that has remained with Johnson, in which an unfamiliar setting became a place of comfort and respite, revealing how simple acts of generosity can create conditions for care. This experience resonates with Joseph Beuys' mythic account of being wrapped in felt as an act of warmth, protection, and care, while Peter Henry Emerson's late nineteenth-century photographs of natural landscapes have informed the exhibition's muted palette and contemplative tone.

Visitors are welcome to:

Sit, pause, and rest within designated areas.

Explore or view the exhibited objects.



Exhibition Guide

Te Wai Ngutu Kākā Gallery
Auckland University of Technology
2026

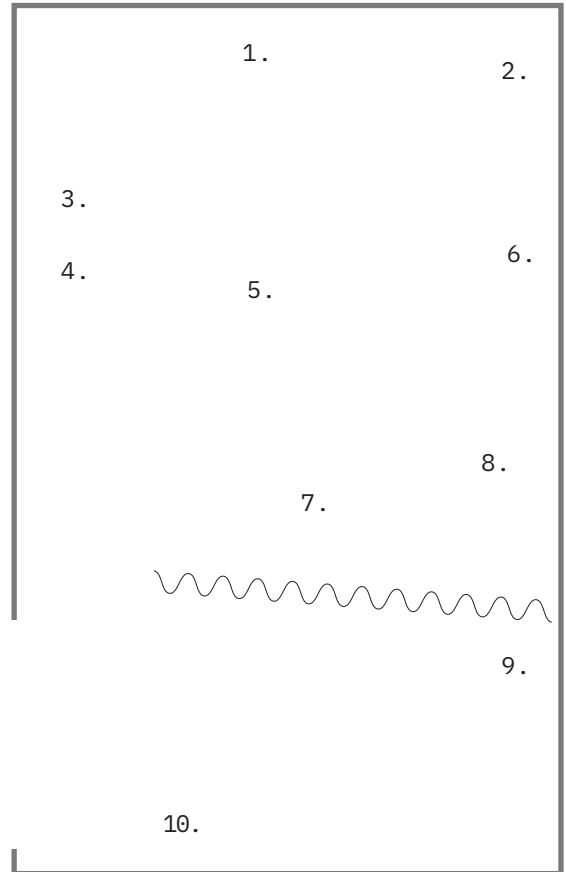
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GALLERY THREE



LIST OF WORKS

1. Knit blankets
2. Rest One
Felt floor blanket,
bolster
3. Rest Two
Hand woven textile on
wooden stool
4. Rest Three
Zabuton , sitting cushion
5. Pillows, sitting cushions,
bolsters
6. Rest Four
Zabuton day-bed , pillow,
bolster
7. Rest Five
Felt floor blanket, sitting
cushion
8. Rest Six
Zabuton day-bed , pillow,
bolster
9. Zabuton, meditation
Cushion
10. Knit blanket, felt floor
blankets

LIST OF ITEMS

Zabuton

NZ Wisewool felt inner layers x8
GOTS certified European organic cotton sleeve
GOTS certified European felted wool cover

Bolster

Recycled locally sourced fibre inner
GOTS certified European organic cotton sleeve
GOTS certified European felted wool cover

Sitting Cushion

NZ Wisewool Cloud inner
GOTS certified European organic cotton sleeve
GOTS certified European felted wool cover

Hand Woven Textile

Dissused wool carpet yarn & varied woollen
yarns
NZ Wisewool felt inner layers x2
GOTS certified European organic cotton sleeve
GOTS certified European feelted wool cover

Pillow

NZ Wisewool Cloud inner
GOTS certified European organic cotton sleeve
Re-sold NZ woven wool & GOTS certified
European felted wool cover

Knit Blanket

100% merino wool

Felt Floor Blanket

100% NZ Superfelt Wool