

## Invading Your Space

Kereama Taepa's new sculptural installation *a (very) brief history of aotearoa* was unveiled in late February on the four plinths outside Te Papa. Atop the plinths are four aluminium, stylised pixelated shapes: a Maori meeting house, a crown, the Beehive, and a bishop's headdress (to represent the early missionaries). They evoke the icons of early arcade computer games. "You can appreciate the aesthetics, and also interact digitally," Taepa explains. He hopes passersby will pull out their phones and scan the large Quick Response codes on the plinths to a Space Invaders-esque game app (he co-designed it) where the icons resemble the sculptures. "I'm interested in exploring the huge impact digital technology is having on our society."

Taepa – not to be confused with his artist brother Ngataiharuru Taepa – is a Digital Arts tutor at Waiariki Institute of Technology in Rotorua, and makes his sculptures in the evenings and weekends in Papamoa.

To complete the \$40,000 commission for the Wellington Sculpture Trust, he stayed up into the small hours from July to October – "I don't get that much sleep." It's the fifth installation in the sculpture series, which is replaced every two years to coincide with the New Zealand Festival.

*a (very) brief history of aotearoa*,  
artist impression, image courtesy  
of Kereama Taepa

