

Sculptures in New Plymouth

The three main sculptures in New Plymouth bring meaning and enhance public culture and heritage here in the local Taranaki. Starting at the Halamoana sculpture, these three landmarks lead a trail going through the centre of town all the way down to the foreshore.

Halamoana, the first sculpture on the way to the foreshore was influenced by lalava, which is a type of weaving that Filipe Tohi, the creator of the sculpture had been studying and working with for 20 years. He believed that lalava suggested balance e.g. 2 sides, male/female, state of harmony. The criss-cross lines in the sculpture have been used giving it an amazing effect using it with size so its effective. **Its purpose is to indicate the movement of the traffic going towards their destination because the sculpture is in an intersection relating to the environment, being a busy intersection of lanes, one going to the sea.** There are voyaging aids which create imaginary lines from the sea to the stars to act as tools in navigation.

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The *Pathfinder* by Paul Hartigan is influenced by pop art because the sculpture isn't traditional art and because Paul uses materials like neon-tubing and popular commercial advertising. **Inspired by Len Iye's gestural drawings shown as the sculpture, extends from the wall and jump, spasm or wander across a dark, flat void. Spontaneous liquids of neon with its glowing lights act as a beacon announcing the presence of the gallery. His purposes was to question art in a different way, because of it not being traditional art as the sculpture of neon tubing squiggles dances along the way leading you inside the gallery. It was to marry the old facade with the new building. Enhancing the public culture and heritage,** it captures the energising potential of painting and drawing with contained light and liberates neon from its traditional commercial use.

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