

Harlem Shine

In-Situ

Walking, foraging, collecting, making

Harlem Shine has an instinctual need to create. His hands and chisel lead the way, drawn out by his enthusiasm and wonderment of the many treasures found washed up along Ōhope's shores. Most days you'll find him searching for driftwood or carving into the wood as it lies in-situ, with an organic rhythm and honest determination.

"I go down to the beach six out of seven days a week – and always after a king tide, this is when I find my best pieces of wood. Some pieces come all the way down the Whakatāne River from the Ureweras ..."

Utilising timbers from unknown origins, perhaps washed down streams or delivered by sea currents, what lies in front of Shine is an uncertain sculptural outcome. Each new surface guides his hands from one exploratory movement to another, extracting the timbers innate qualities through the artist's process.

"Everything I carve is inspired by tiki."

There is a familiarity in his works: the paua eyes; varnished woods; and carved lines, but Shine's sculptures take you to an imagined land. Many think they have washed up as they lie. Awaiting rediscovery, Shine's sculptures remain where found, only shifting by the movements of the sea.

To view Shine's works in-situ follow the map provided below.

