



Joe Kemp

I have lived in Lake Rotoma in the Bay of Plenty for the last fifteen years. I have been into art since I can remember only finding my sculpting ability eight years ago. My tribal connections are Ngai Tahu, Ngāpuhi and Te Arawa (Ngati Makino).

I am self-taught and find it's a great privilege to be able to create with these mediums and art forms. I enjoy carving human form, especially females. I feel doing human form connects me with my ancestral history which brings a whole new meaning and purpose to the finished art work. I use wood as my main medium and enjoy the secrets and surprises that our native timbers have with them. I sense a connection with Tane Mahuta (the life force of the tree) as I'm working with the wood, so it is quite a special feeling. I also carve a variety of stone, where again there is a connection with Papatuanuku (Earth Mother).

