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Special Issue: "The Face of the Other"

December 2012



Ata: Journal of Psychotherapy Aotearoa New Zealand  
The Journal of the New Zealand Association of Psychotherapists Inc.

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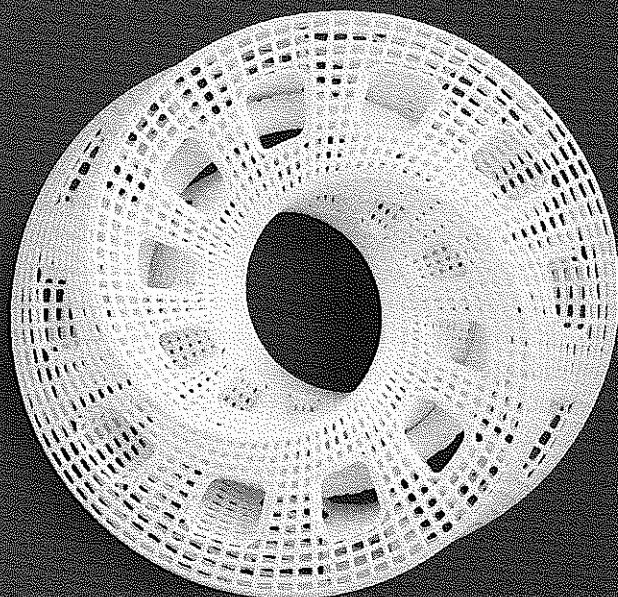
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## Poroporaki In This Room\*

*Tess Moeke-Maxwell*

*(Ngai Tai ki Umupuia, Ngati Porou, Ngati Pukeko, Ngati Pākehā)*

UNIVERSITY OF WAIKATO, HAMILTON

There's a place that we can go and tell our secrets to  
In this room, in this room.  
Papatuanuku, ranginui, te atua, tupuna,  
Whanau, me and you.

We have many, many faces  
That we unmask to you  
Feel our pain —  
In this room.

See beneath our skin and gang patches  
To our beauty within  
Help us heal our wounds —  
In this room.

Take our hands so we can lead you  
Where we need to go,  
All shadows cast aside,  
So we can leave this room.



**Tess Moeke-Maxwell** is from Ngai Tai ki Umupuia, Ngati Porou, Ngati Pukeko and Ngati Pākehā. She is currently a Health Research Council (HRC) Research Fellow in the Māori and Psychology Research Unit, School of Psychology, Waikato University.

\* Inspired by and sung to the tune of the Beach Boys' (1963) song "In my room" (from the album *Surfer Girls*).

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