Caption:

Three figures in the prow of Mātāwhaorua, an ocean voyaging canoe, represent the discovery and naming of Aotearoa. Hine Te Apārangi (left) points to the long white cloud that signals the presence of a landmass. The figures at the top and right are her husband Kupe, the renowned explorer, and Pekahourangi, his tohunga (ritual expert). William Trethewey created this plaster sculpture for the 1939-40 Centennial Exhibition in Wellington, where it was photographed by Leslie Adkin. A bronze version was unveiled on the Wellington waterfront in 2000.

Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa A.007274

Bio:

Fiona McKergow is preparing her doctoral thesis on colonial textile culture in mid-nineteenth century Aotearoa New Zealand for publication. She has previously been a historical researcher, museum curator, and co-editor of two volumes: *Looking Flash: Clothing in Aotearoa New Zealand*(Auckland University Press, 2007) with Bronwyn Labrum and Stephanie Gibson and *Te Hao Nui - The Great Catch: Object Stories from Te Manawa* (Godwit/Random House, 2011) with Kerry Taylor.