



## A TASTE OF KIWI

A new generation of print making sees the emergence of a vibrant and passionate young artist.

Words **Lucinda Diack** Photography **Bruce Clarke**

EVERY NOW AND THEN YOU REDISCOVER a love for a lost passion or feel inspired by someone who offers that little something different. Born and raised in Brazil and now living in the Coromandel, Annie Sandano is a printmaker with a twist; and an overwhelming passion.

Setting up studio in her parents' garage, and working with a custom made printing press, she is creating limited edition prints which merge her current life as a Kiwi and her Brazilian heritage. Working with printed woodcuts Annie creates intricate stylised New Zealand shapes and motifs to make up her latest body of work – the New Zealand print range.

Starting out as a sketch on paper each detailed design is researched

and created carefully before being transferred onto wood. "I work with a particle wood which has no grain so allows me to create sharp lines, and it's softer to work which is great!" This labour intensive process has not been without its problems however and Annie is more than happy to admit that she has learnt the hard way how to get things "just right."

Working with Japanese woodcut tools has allowed Annie to discover and explore new avenues. "It is important to keep fresh and be constantly exploring new techniques to allow for forward movement." Part of this includes an intensive overseas workshop later this year to allow for further development and appreciation of techniques.

Annie describes her own work as a celebration of modern printmaking and is excited she is able to create vibrant, feel good pieces. "A few of my prints feature hongī motifs and they have been really popular as wedding gifts. I love that people think my work has a romantic aspect."

Brazil has long had woodcut prints underlying its art world and these New Zealand prints are made from start to finish with love to allow cross cultural appreciation on an accessible and artistic level. ■

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Watch out for Annie's new releases into the New Zealand print range later this year. Visit [www.anniesmitssandano.com](http://www.anniesmitssandano.com)