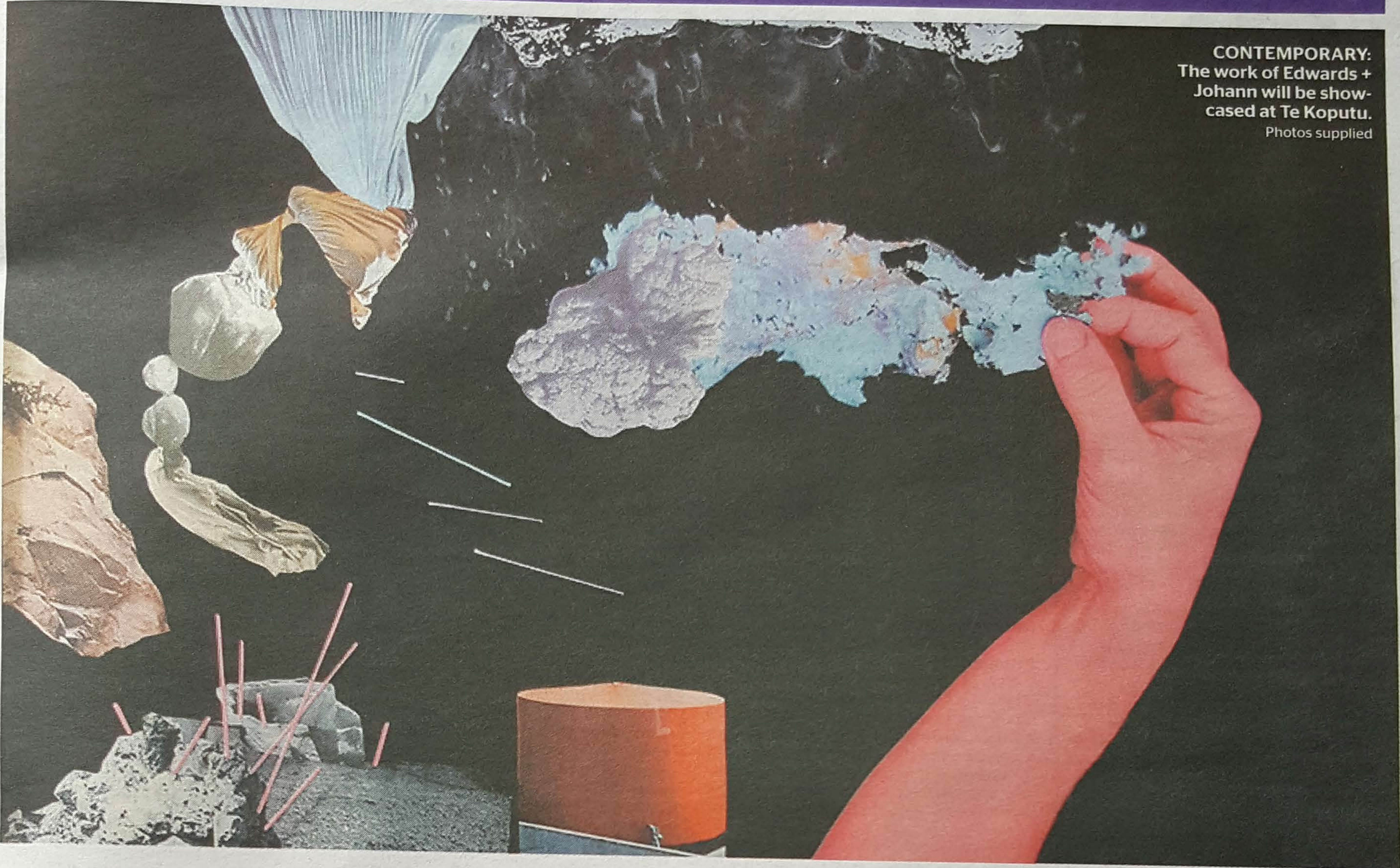


ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



CONTEMPORARY:
The work of Edwards + Johann will be showcased at Te Koputu.
Photos supplied

Contemporary artists Edwards + Johann come to Whakatane

TWO of New Zealand's leading contemporary artists, the duo known as Edwards + Johann, have arrived in Whakatane for a major new exhibition, *From The Edge of Spaces*, at Te Koputu, Whakatane's library and exhibition centre.

While here, they will also present a gallery talk and two creative workshops for Bay of Plenty residents.

The exhibition by Edwards + Johann (Victoria Edwards and Ina Johann) will run from April 21 to June 28 and features recent works in photography and video, with innovative use of colour and form.

"The works on show in Whakatane are essentially photography, although layered with drawing and collage," Johann explains. "They are bold, colourful and insightful."

The exhibition also features a new video diptych, *Only Ghosts Glow in the Dark*, commissioned by the Wallace Trust in 2017.

Edwards + Johann's collaborative work interweaves drawing, painting, performative activities, video and installation with photography.

A connecting thread in their visual storytelling is the use of the obsessive line drawing over an existing object, as motif for the tensions and layers of daily life.

The artists will offer a free gallery talk at Whakatane Museum from 11

From the Edge of Spaces

- **What:** Edwards + Johann exhibition
- **When:** April 21 to June 28
- **Where:** Te Koputu, Whakatane's library and exhibition centre

am on Saturday, April 21.

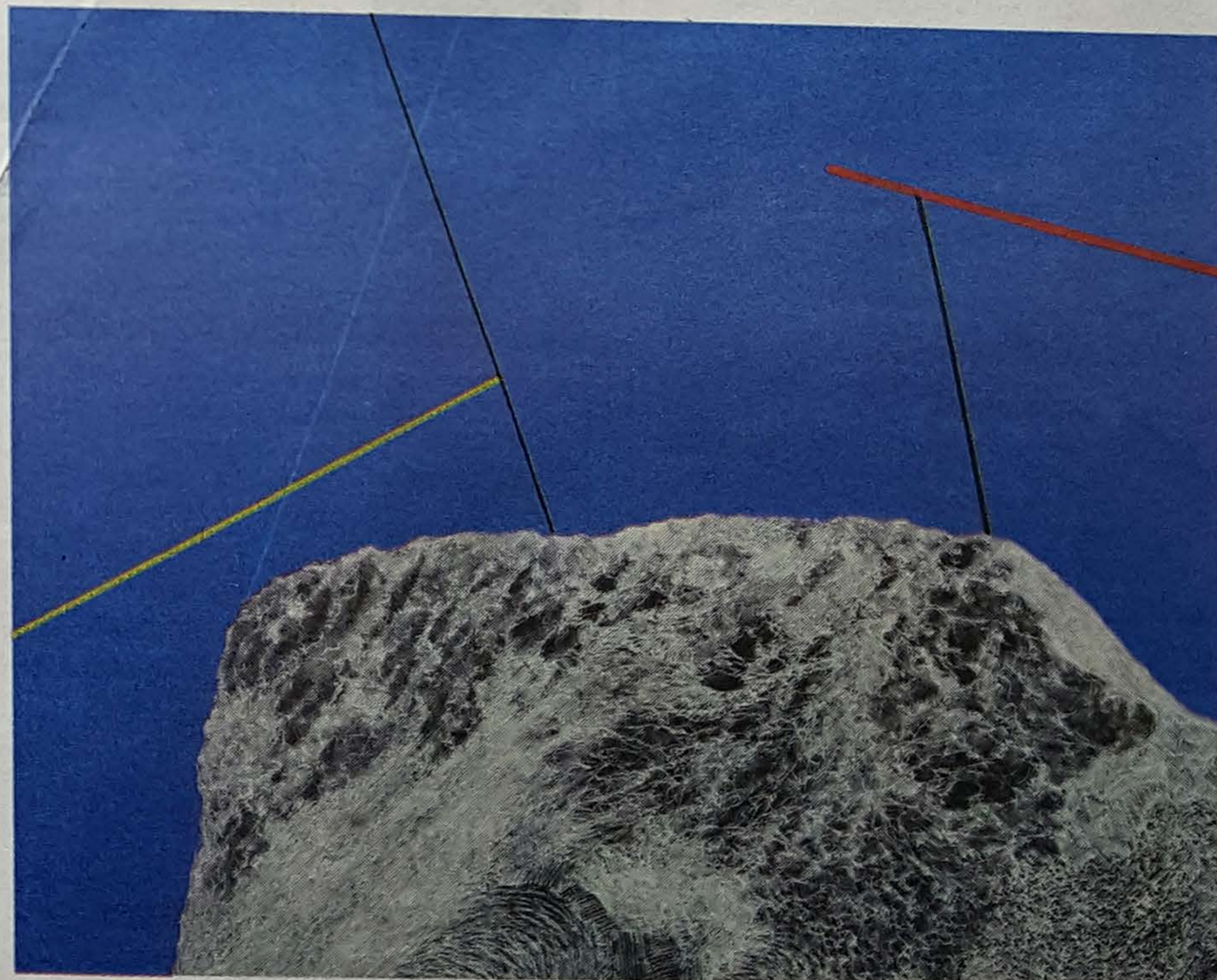
Two community workshops will be available for anyone wanting to find creative inspiration and guidance.

A free class for 12- to 16-year olds takes place tomorrow (April 14), and one adult class is planned for Sunday (cost \$25). To secure your place, call 027 549 6617 or email arts@whakatane.govt.nz.

While in the Eastern Bay, Edwards + Johann will also help begin a new Volcanic Artist Residency Programme being developed by Whakatane Museum.

Over 12 days, the two artists will journey to Whakaari/White Island, meet with geothermal scientists and environmentalists, and begin research towards a new body of work involving volcanic phenomenon. The pilot residency will culminate in a work-in-progress installation for the front window at Te Koputu.

"The development of an artist-in-residence programme that connects creative people with our active offshore volcano is a unique opportunity," said



Whakatane District Council museum and arts director Eric Holowacz.

"It combines the earth sciences, subterranean energy and creative people to inspire new artistic developments."

As the museum develops and refines

the idea over the coming months, it will begin inviting artists and cultural managers from across New Zealand to propose a project, spend time in residence, and learn about local geothermal wonders.