



# Winterstellar Constellation Art Challenge Kaikōura 2026

## Scorpius/Māui's Fish Hook

### About this Art Challenge

Our Challenge is to encourage young and old to re-imagine common constellations. In doing so we hope to not only inspire some original artistic creations, but also to fuel a curiosity and appreciation of our night skies.

The artworks can be in any medium, but always from the same inspiration point, the same combination of stars.



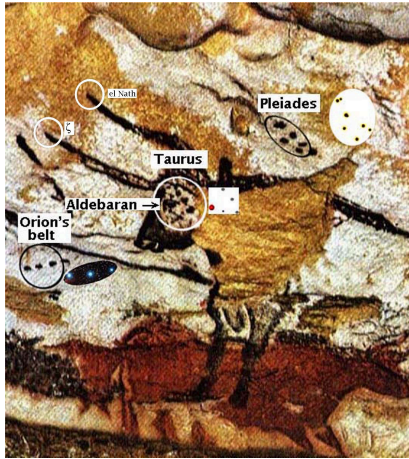
We will be running this event wherever we take the Winterstellar Exhibitions in 2026. This will include Kaikoura, Wairarapa, Arrowtown, Alexandra and Dunedin.



Sponsored prizes for best entries will be awarded at each exhibition and copies of selected images will become part of its own exhibition and video at the end of the year.

## About Constellations

Since the earliest ancestors of man organised their lives enough to have time to look up at night and contemplate the stars, they have used the night skies to be their compass, their calendar and the archive of knowledge, legend and lore.



The most common method was to group visible stars that formed a perceived pattern or outline, typically representing an animal, mythological subject, or common object.

All advanced cultures from around the World have developed their own versions with many lost to time, and a few surviving to be still used today.

Some of the oldest examples of constellations that have stood the test of time can be seen on 17,500 year old cave paintings in France, believed to be depicting Taurus the bull and Pleiades (Matariki).

## About Scorpius/Māui's Fish Hook



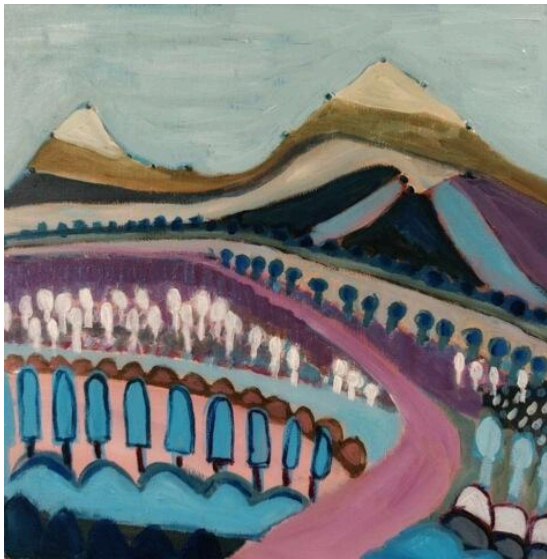
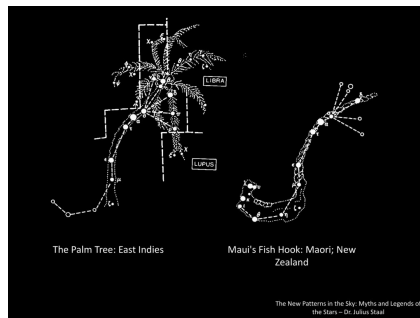
For our first challenge we have chosen the constellation Scorpius. It is a very distinct constellation that rises high in our Aotearoa Winter night skies.

Scorpius is a zodiac constellation located in the Southern celestial hemisphere, where it sits near the center of the Milky Way, between Libra to the west and Sagittarius to the east.

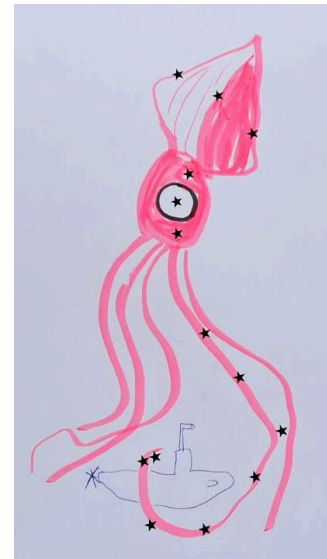
Scorpius is one of the 48 constellations identified by the Greek astronomer Ptolemy in the second century, although its origins predate Greek culture, with records of its use in ancient Babylon.

In Māori astronomy it is part of the great asterism, Te Waka O Tamarereti. It is also referred to as Māui's Fish Hook, a name which has taken on more popularity since the Disney movie Moana.

This combination of stars has many other names in other cultures around the World.



Katie Robinson



Andy Davey

## Kaikōura Entry Details

Email a digital photo of your artwork to [andy@winterstellar.com](mailto:andy@winterstellar.com) or contact Colette on 0211132884 / [kaikouradarksky@gmail.com](mailto:kaikouradarksky@gmail.com) to arrange to drop off your art piecework. Submit your entry by the 31st March 2026.

Winners will be entered into the National competition with National Winners announced in September. Good luck and have fun!

