



Lot 50 in original C F Goldie frame

Tumai Tawhiti (1812-1912) was partly Ngati Raukawa and partly Arawa. He married Te Aotiti, an Arawa/Tuwharetoa woman, and lived in the hill pa at Tarukenga, overlooking Rotorua. Tumai was only eleven years old when Hongi and his Ngapuhi warriors raided Mokoia Island in 1823, but he escaped in a canoe and found refuge at Ngongotaha, the sacred burial ground of the lake people.

In 1836 as a young warrior, Tumai Tawhiti fought in the Bay of Plenty battle at Te Tumu and later participated in the cannibal feast of the defeated. On returning home he received an intricate full facial tattoo over a three month period. Inspired by this striking spiral moko, Goldie first painted the aged Tumai Tawhiti in 1911, just a year before his subject's death.

Tumai Tawhiti was painted posthumously by Goldie in 1913, he titled this work, which met with much critical acclaim, *The Last of the Cannibals*. It hangs in the collection of the Aigantighe Art Gallery, Timaru. Further renditions of this favoured subject were painted in 1932, 1935 and 1938, these three works by Goldie are held in private collections.

50 **CHARLES FREDERICK GOLDIE**

1870 - 1947

*Tumai Tawhiti, A Chieftain of the
Ngatihivi Ngatitenaakau*

Oil on canvas on hardboard 43 x 38

Signed & dated 1938

Inscribed verso

250,000 - 350,000

Label inscribed in Goldie's hand affixed to original stretcher verso
reads: *Tumai Tawhiti lived at Tarukenga near Rotorua - a Chieftain*

Another label inscribed in Goldie's hand affixed to original stretcher
verso reads: *A Chieftain of the Ngatihivi Ngatitenaakau born 1814*

Provenance:

Private Collection since 1939

Purchased by current owners family,
John Leech, Auckland, 1939, £80.00

Illustrated p 284, C F Goldie: *His Life & Painting*
Alister Taylor & Jan Glen, 1977.

On the market for the first time since original purchase.

