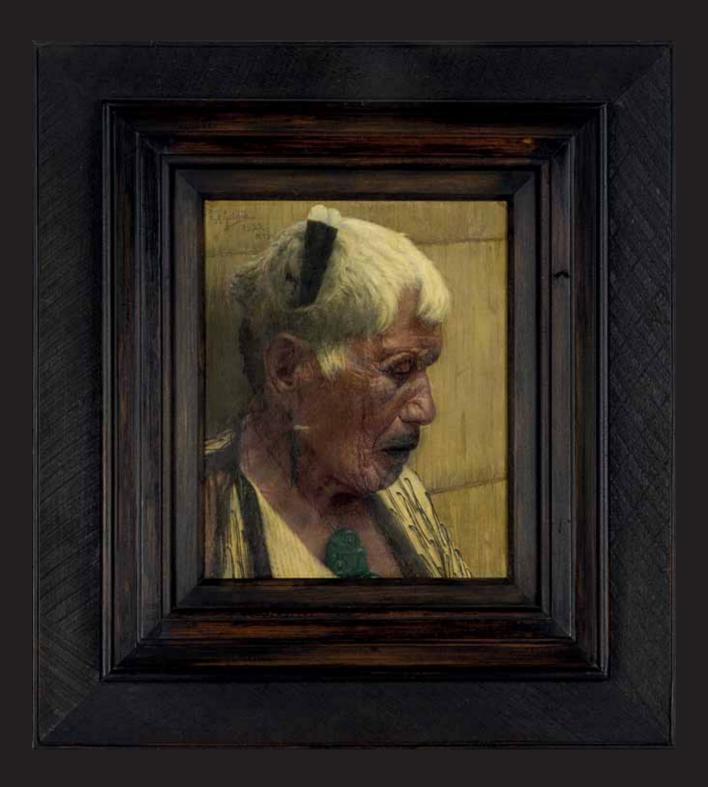




# IMPORTANT PAINTINGS & CONTEMPORARY ART



# 26 NOVEMBER 2015

### "There are few things I can say about my work that are better than saying nothing"

#### - Ralph Hotere

The classic quote above does tend to fly in the face of much that ART+OBJECT seeks to do with a catalogue such as this. What we hope to be able to do once this catalogue reaches your hands is initiate lots of talking, reading and discussion regarding the superb artworks we present for your interest.

To assist us in this goal we commission essays from some of the most qualified art writers, critics and academics in the land. Many of them hold significant teaching or curatorial positions and have published important articles and books on their chosen artists. We hope that their thoughts, words and above all insights will assist us, and you, by providing a fact or a thought that may spark a connection to a particular work or artist. One of the key reasons we do this is because we know you enjoy these essays. The feedback we receive during our exhibitions at A+O confirm that these essays are well read, critiqued and discussed. After eight years we have arrived at catalogue 98 - close to a milestone for the company. From the very first catalogue we have enjoyed the contributions from some of the finest art thinkers in New Zealand.

Professor Laurence Simmons is a regular contributor to A+O catalogues; an acknowledged expert on many of our leading modernist artists and the author of the 2002 publication The image always has the last word. He is well qualified to understand the inherent contradiction in our insistence to talk and write about art which we devour first with our eyes. But still we press on. On page 80 is Laurence's essay on a wonderful Milan Mrkusich work dating to 1958 that has been recently repatriated to its home town after many years in Melbourne. From this essay we glean both a vital backstory that takes us to the heart of a time when this work was defiantly 'contemporary', an elegant summary of how this painting functions in terms of its aesthetics and a pithy 1969 guote by the artist: 'You want a landscape? Take a drive in the country'.

Megan Dunn is perhaps best known as a regular contributor to the *New Zealand Listener* magazine. Her

chosen topics are art and literature, a recent piece on photographer Peter Peryer was entitled *A cup of meths on the barbie*. Dunn was recently interviewed by *Salient* magazine on how she tackles an artwork. Her response should be kept in mind when reading her illuminating piece on the 1969 Brent Wong work *Tradewinds* on page 92, "I start by describing what I have seen. This isn't easy. Description is a joy and a pain in the arse. A writer has the responsibility to be concrete, rather than abstract, even when writing about abstraction."

In an unusual step for an A+O catalogue we have asked the current owner of a work to write an essay on its merits. Usually this is a no-no, but in this case this writer and owner is leading academic Professor Michael Dunn, whose PhD thesis was based on the work of Gordon Walters. Professor Dunn curated the 1983 Auckland City Art Gallery exhibition on Walters and, as they say, wrote the book. So, in this case we trust we can be forgiven for making an exception to what was previously a golden rule. The early koru work in question and accompanying essay can be found on pages 66 & 67.

In addition A+O directors, both trained art historians, Hamish Coney and Ben Plumbly contribute essays to this catalogue. Coincidentally they both have penned articles on works by Ralph Hotere and in both cases the aim is to expand our readers' ability to reckon with works that are resolutely abstract, yet dense with reference points to international art movements or local tribal history.

The aim of the essays published in this catalogue is to help us to learn, not everything, but perhaps something that sparks a moment of clarity, understanding or even joy when contemplating an artwork. If that is the motivation to make a visit to see the work in the flesh during our upcoming pre-auction exhibition viewing then, perhaps, we have done our job.

Hamish Coney



3 Abbey Street Newton, Auckland

PO Box 68 345 Newton, Auckland 1145 Telephone: +64 9 354 4646 Freephone: 0 800 80 60 01 Facsimile: +64 9 354 4645

info@artandobject.co.nz www.artandobject.co.nz Cover: Lot 82. Rohan Wealleans Black Swan. Inside front and back: Lot 81. Ronnie van Hout Hello, Goodbye. Previous page: Lot 98. Charles Frederick Goldie Wiripine Ninia – An Arawa Chieftainess

# A lighting system so advanced it can see into the future.

The new Audi Q7's optional Matrix LED headlights also function as cornering lights. Using predictive route data supplied by the MMI navigation plus, the focus of the beam is shifted towards the bend in the road, even before the driver turns the steering wheel. To see how far the new Q7 has come, visit Giltrap Audi today or go to **audi.co.nz/Q7.** 

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# EXHIBITING QUALITY LANDSCAPES

#### **NEW ZEALAND'S** FINEST LUXURY PROPERTIES

#### 80 EDMONDS ROAD BAY OF ISLANDS



With a private, waterfront location, an architect-designed home and a separate caretaker's cottage, this property presents as a tropical-style retreat. The main residence displays the superior qualities of a typical Ron Sang designed home. Constructed of reinforced insulated concrete with warm timber features, this multi-level property showcases a Malaysian influence in its style.





- Exclusive and waterfront location, approximately 1.99 hectares
- Ron Sang architect-designed main residence and separate cottage
- Quality finishes include slate, sandstone, jarrah, teak, copper
- Established gardens; natives, exotics, citrus orchard, olive grove
- Barn/boatshed, concrete boat ramp, mooring available for transfer

#### luxuryrealestate.co.nz/NT80

#### 6 🛏 5 ≓ 3 📾





Overlooking the coast between Whakatane and Ohope Beach, this hinterland retreat offers a winning combination of rural privacy and coastal lifestyle. It is a superb vantage point for the spectacular views that carve through undulating farmland toward Whale and White Islands. The property includes an impressive four-bedroom home and a separate building, purposely designed for leisure pursuits.

- Coastal land approximately 9.508 hectares (subject to title)
  Stunning four-bedroom home with expansive views

- Master suite with outdoor deck and luxurious bathroom • Double garage, air conditioning and double-glazing

#### 461 ARROWTOWN LAKE HAYES ROAD QUEENSTOWN





This prime location allows the new owner to easily enjoy all the facilities of the neighbouring Milbrook resort and historic Arrowtown. With all its charm and award winning restaurants or the numerous golf courses, choices are endless. Nearby access to the Wakatipu Trails Trust also means 100km+ of walking and biking trails right on your doorstep.

- Circa 270m<sup>2</sup> home designed by Peter Bevan from Christchurch
  Located just 1.5km from historic Arrowtown (in school zone)
- Includes barn that can accommodate several vehicles
- Prior unconditional offers will be considered

5 🛏 2 🐋 4 🚘

# luxuryrealestate.co.nz/QT102



Exceptional privacy and stunning lake and mountain views ensure this property stands out from the rest. Combings Farm is a traditional sheep and beef property set within a patchwork of paddocks, rolling meadows and natural rocky outcrops. This property has been faithfully farmed by the current owners for 36 years and is offered to the market for genuine sale.

- First time to the market in 36 years
- Two approved building platforms consented Close proximity to world class ski fields and Wanaka township
- Aspect mostly lying to the north overlooking Lake Wanaka
  Abundant with streams and natural springs

#### luxuryrealestate.co.nz/LW01

137 Hectares

QUEENSTOWN & CENTRAL OTAGO Terry Spice 021 755 889 aluxuryrealestate.co.nz terrv

**BAY OF ISLANDS & NORTHLAND** Charlie Brendon-Cook 0212 444 888 charlie@luxuryrealestate.co.nz

AUCKLAND & SURROUNDS Nick Horton 021 530 000 ick@luxuryrealestate.co.nz

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LUXURY REAL ESTATE

THE OTHER DESCRIPTION

# NEW COLLECTORS ART DECEMBER 8TH

**lan Scott** *Lattice No.52 (detail)* acrylic on canvas

realised \$11 110 September 1st



Working Style Heritage Series 02 Spring - Summer 2015/16



• C O • N Z

S.S.

Strong lines, a bold outlook, and meticulous attention to detail. As with the best menswear, the best architecture combines all these qualities - and more - to produce something greater.

<u>Ian Athfield's</u> house in <u>Wellington</u> is a unique achievement. Described by some as "part family home, part office, almost a village",

it exudes a timeless confidence that is as fresh today as when it first graced its towering <u>Khandallah</u> hilltop in <u>1965</u>.

#### 2015/16

Since <u>1987</u> we've aspired to this attitude when we design the <u>Working</u> <u>Style</u> Collection; every single aspect is critical for achieving the right look. The weight of the cloth, the perfect lapel, the collar just so.

And each choice balances the classic with the contemporary, enabling you to express yourself, imprint your own inimitable style on your wardrobe. And create exactly the right impression with clothes destined to become lifelong friends.

### DECORATIVE ARTS & MODERN DESIGN DECEMBER 9TH

**The Kingmaker's Cloak** An impressive and prestigious 19th century Kahu Kiwi Muka flax fibre, kiwi, kaka and kereru feathers Formerly belonging to Atanatiu Taingakawa Te Waharoa (1844 – 1929), Ngati Haua leader

> Realised \$128 528 September 2nd

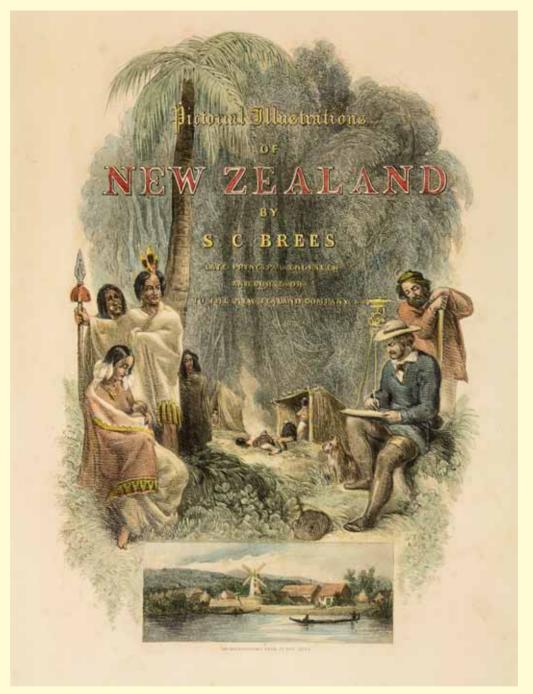
A new New Zealand auction record for a korowai

# HORNABROOK MACDONALD DON'T SETTLE FOR LESS.

**ADVISORS TO ART+OBJECT** 

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Title page from Pictorial Illustrations of New Zealand by S.C. Brees London, 1847, \$6500 - \$10000

RARE BOOKS 9 DECEMBER 2015

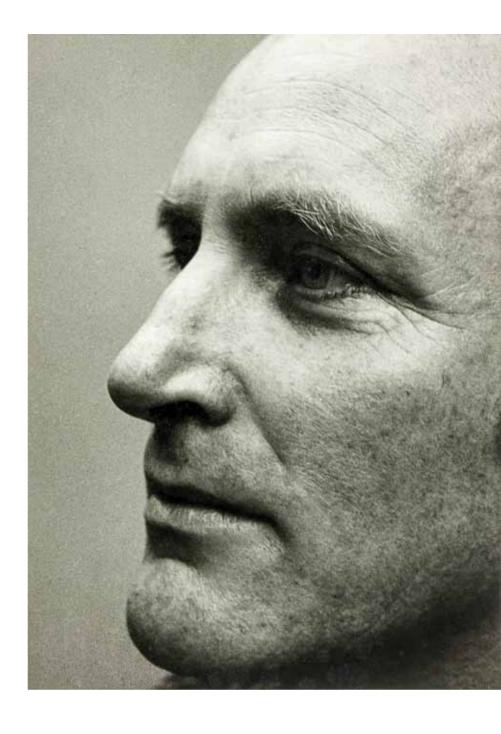
#### CATALOGUE PUBLISHED AND ONLINE FROM 26 NOVEMBER

A+O's final Rare Books catalogue is notable for the inclusion of many extremely early and rare publications from two South Island private libraries with the accent on Exploration, Antarctic and illustrated volumes. Of particular note is a suite of four 18th century aquatint scenes from Cook's third voyage by the marine artist John Cleverley (1747 – 1786) in fine condition. Also of note is a hand-coloured edition of S.C. Brees *Pictorial Illustrations of New Zealand* (1847) with all plates intact. In addition, the feature lot of a superb selection of early angling books is a large and beautifully presented 19th century 'Fly Board' by Wilhelmina Buchan that won a gold medal at the Otago Industrial Exhibition of 1898.
The catalogue also features a complete set of Captain Cook's Voyages comprising eight volumes and the folio atlas, a first edition of W.L. Buller's *A History of the Birds of New Zealand* (1873), *The Native Flowers of New Zealand* by Mrs Georgina Hetley (3 volumes, 1878-88) and an original typescript of *The Songs of the Morning* inscribed in ink by the author Gerard S. Doorly and dated 2/7/45.

#### CONTACT

Pam Plumbly, Rare Book Specialist 09 354 4646, pam@artandobject.co.nz





# The archive of Professor Emeritus Michael Dunn

February 2016

Michael Dunn is one of New Zealand's most distinguished art historians, having taught at The University of Auckland for over twenty five years as head of the Art History department before being appointed Chair of Elam School of Fine Arts in 1994. He is the author of over 20 major publications including *New Zealand Painting, a Concise History* (2006) and *New Zealand Sculpture: A History* (2002). His research as well as publications and articles on leading New Zealand Modernist artists afforded him unique access to many of the key figures in New Zealand art history of the 20th century.

Professor Dunn's archive collection reflects the scope of his interests and relationships and includes documents, rare photographs and artworks that inform a lifetime as a central figure in the conceptual thinking that has driven the visual arts discourse within New Zealand over the last fifty years.

> Peter Peryer *Michael Dunn* silver gelatin print title inscribed, signed and dated 13.9.83 verso 290 x 210mm \$4000 - \$6000

Contact Hamish Coney 021 509 550 hamish@artandobject.co.nz



N N N N

#### **REOPENING FROM 19 DECEMBER WITH A SUMMER OF ART**

ed by Christchurch Art Gallery Foundation; gift of Neil Graham. Photo: John Collie

Strategic Partne

BETHNOS CONNOTO BE ALBRICA











Wilson

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#### THE SIMON MANCHESTER COLLECTION OF LEN CASTLE CERAMICS

February 2016

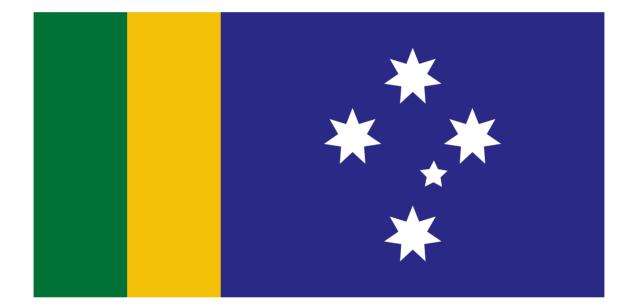
Wellington based Simon Manchester is a recognized authority on New Zealand studio pottery. In particular his long term collection of the work of Len Castle can be described as authoritative, having been assembled via close association with the artist and exhaustive research over the last twenty five years. Simon has been a regular contributor to journals, publications and exhibitions on Castle's work. His collection is notable for rare and superior examples of every stage of Castle's practice and this offering constitutes a museum quality collection that spans nearly sixty years of Castle's unique career.

Len Castle *Blossom Vase* from the Simon Manchester Collection \$8000 – \$10 000

Contact James Parkinson 021 222 8184 james@artandobject.co.nz



### NEW ART & CULTURE MAGAZINE



# **REDESIGNING THE AUSTRALIAN FLAG**

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ART DIRECTION HAYMAN

Foreground: Ausflag Itd ©. Sporting flag Boarder left: Design by Toko (Detail) Boarder right: Collider, Super Nova (Detail)

**ART INK** 

PUBLISHER



# снамрадме **TAITTINGER** *Reims*



#### AUCTION

Thursday 26 November at 6.00pm 3 Abbey Street, Newton, Auckland

#### PREVIEW

Thursday 19 November 6.00pm – 8.00pm

#### VIEWING

# IMPORTANT PAINTINGS & CONTEMPORARY ART

# THE WHAKAIRO COLLECTION

6.00PM

LOTS 1-36





#### Bill Hammond

Picnic lithograph, 9/30 title inscribed, signed and dated 2007 545 x 690mm Provenance: Purchased from Peter McLeavey Gallery, Wellington in September 2008. \$4000 - \$6000



2

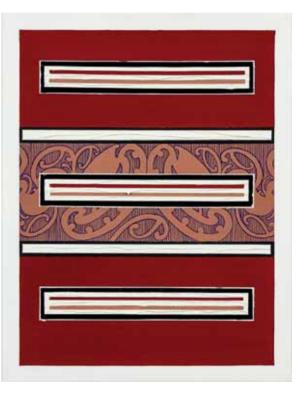
Bill Hammond Picnic II lithograph, 23/27 title inscribed, signed and dated 2007 545 x 690mm Provenance: Purchased from Peter McLeavey Gallery, Wellington in September 2008. \$4000 - \$6000



3

#### James Robinson

Self-Possessed mixed media on canvas title inscribed, signed and dated 2007 verso 1500 x 1350mm Provenance: Purchased from Mark Hutchins Gallery, Wellington in February 2008. \$7000 – \$10 000



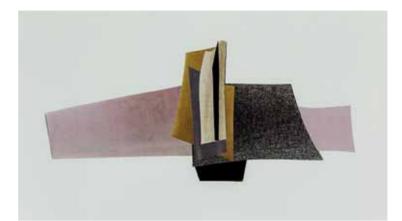
4

Darryn George Pohi No. 4 oil on canvas title inscribed, signed and dated 2008 verso; original Gow Langsford Gallery label affixed verso 350 x 280mm Provenance: Purchased from Gow Langsford Gallery, Auckland in July 2009. \$2000 – \$3500



#### Ans Westra and Wayne Youle

Parliament Steps, Wellington: This place could do with a clean up sign vinyl and gelatin silver print signed 'Ans Westra, Wellington, 1973' and 'Wayne Youle, 19. 4. 13' verso 276 x 215mm Provenance: Purchased from Suite Gallery, Wellington in September 2013. \$4000 - \$6000



### 6

#### Ava Seymour

Sopranino digital print, 2/3 title inscribed, signed and dated '06 verso 225 x 385mm Provenance: Purchased from Peter McLeavey Gallery, Wellington in September 2012. \$2000 - \$3000



#### 7

#### Edwards + Johann

An Embezzlement of Sorts No. 5 type C photograph, collage and acrylic on glass title inscribed, signed and dated 2013 verso; original Nadene Milne Gallery label affixed verso 280 x 407 x 30mm Provenance: Purchased from Nadene Milne Gallery, Arrowtown in November 2014. \$2000 - \$3000



#### 8

Adrienne Millwood Transmitter acrylic and silkscreen on canvas title inscribed, signed and dated 2013 verso 1160 x1295mm Provenance: Purchased from Suite Gallery, Wellington in September 2013. \$3500 - \$5000



Andrew McLeod Michelangelo digital print, 2/3 signed and dated 2010 1012 x 785mm Provenance: Purchased from Peter McLeavey Gallery, Wellington in February 2011. \$8000 - \$12 000



#### 11

#### Seraphine Pick

Untitled gouache and watercolour on paper signed and dated 2006 760 x 562mm Provenance: Purchased from Hamish McKay Gallery, Wellington in March 2010. \$6500 - \$8500



10

Peter Peryer New Zealand gelatin silver print 410 x 270mm Provenance: Purchased from Webb's, Auckland in April 2012. \$3000 – \$5000



#### 12

#### Allen Maddox

Perfect Piece for a Woman acrylic on paper title inscribed, signed and dated 10 – 89 845 x 590mm Provenance: Purchased from Page Blackie, Wellington in October 2008. \$8000 – \$12 000



#### John Drawbridge

17.30 (4th May 2002) pastel and watercolour on paper title inscribed, signed and dated 760 x 580mm Illustrated: Damian Skinner, John Drawbridge (Ron Sang Publications, 2008), p. 179. Provenance: Collection of Maribeth Coleman, Wellington. Purchased from Dunbar Sloane, Wellington in July 2009. \$4000 - \$6000



#### 14

#### Terry Stringer

The Theatre of Memory: Would my younger self approve me now oil on canvas signed and dated '97; title inscribed and inscribed Janne Land, April '97 verso 760 x 610mm Provenance: Purchased from Dunbar Sloane, Wellington in May 2006. \$1500 – \$2500



#### 15

#### Marti Friedlander

Kelmarna Gardens, Grey Lynn gelatin silver print 380 x 250mm Provenance: Purchased from Webb's, Auckland in March 2012. \$2500 – \$3500

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#### 16

#### Max Gimblett

Hoop Scotch unique screenprint signed and dated 2008 570 x 763mm Provenance: Purchased from the Catchment Gallery, Nelson in October 2008. \$2000 – \$3000



17

#### Warren Viscoe

Sea Pieces (Dulcet) kauri and privet, two parts 580 x 370 x 170mm Provenance: Purchased from Artis Gallery, Auckland in July 2009. \$6000 - \$9000



18

Renate Verbrugge La Coquine marble 440 x 230 x 135mm Provenance: Purchased from the Botanical Gardens, Wellington Sculpture exhibition in October 2006. \$1000 – \$2000



#### Mervyn Williams

Postscript '05 acrylic on canvas title inscribed, signed and dated '05 verso 950 x 810mm Provenance: Purchased from Judith Anderson Gallery, Hawke's Bay in February 2007. \$8000 – \$12 000



#### 20

Tony de Lautour Masterplan oil and acrylic on canvas title inscribed, signed and dated 1999 1210 x 805mm Provenance: Purchased from Dunbar Sloane, Wellington in August 2009. \$7000 - \$10 000



#### 21

Dick Frizzell Woolshed Girls acrylic on canvas title inscribed, signed and dated 2009 1200 x 1200mm Provenance: Purchased from the artist in February 2008. \$12 000 - \$18 000



22

Emily Wolfe Shadow III oil on linen 1200 x 1110mm Provenance: Purchased from Melanie Roger Gallery, Auckland in September 2012. \$10 000 - \$15 000



#### Kushana Bush

Quiet Life (From All Things to All Men) gouache and pencil on paper title inscribed, signed and dated 2011 verso 760 x 560mm Provenance: Purchased from Brett McDowell Gallery, Dunedin in February 2012. \$5000 - \$8000



25

Star Gossage Matariki oil on board title inscribed, signed and dated June 2006 and inscribed *In Pakiri* verso 300 x 170mm Provenance: Purchased from Tinakori Gallery, Wellington in August 2006. \$3500 – \$5500



#### 24

Robyn Kahukiwa Ko te pūkana te koha o te ruru graphite on paper title inscribed, signed and dated 2002 800 x 615mm Provenance: Purchased from Dunbar Sloane, Wellington in May 2006. \$3500 – \$5000



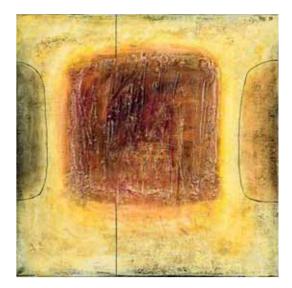
#### 26

Jason Greig Resistance is Futile monoprint, 1/1 title inscribed, signed and dated 2011 verso 550 x 365mm Provenance: Purchased from Hamish McKay Gallery, Wellington in September 2012. \$3000 – \$5000



#### Euan Macleod

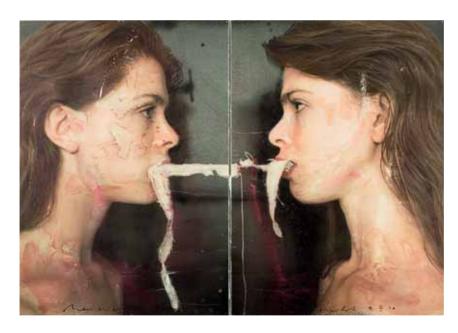
Walking out of the Storm oil on canvas title inscribed, signed and dated 2005 verso 850 x 12000mm Provenance: Purchased from Bowen Galleries, Wellington in March 2006. \$7000 - \$10 000



28

#### Melvin Day

Orange Proportion mixed media on linen signed and dated '70 600 x 600mm Provenance: Purchased from Dunbar Sloane, Wellington in November 2010. \$5000 – \$8000





#### Ben Webb

Study V watercolour and opalescent pigments on rag paper, diptych signed and dated 2010 955 x 1350mm: overall Provenance: Purchased from Jonathan Smart Gallery, Christchurch in June 2011. \$6000 - \$8000



30

#### Nigel Brown

Her Native Protection acrylic and metallic paint on paper title inscribed, signed and dated 2009 595 x 420mm Provenance: Purchased from Williams Gallery, Petone in December 2009. \$4500 - \$6500





#### Manu Berry

School of Architecture woodcut and collage, 1/3 title inscribed and signed 917 x 270mm Provenance: Purchased from the School of Architecture in December 2009. \$800 - \$1400



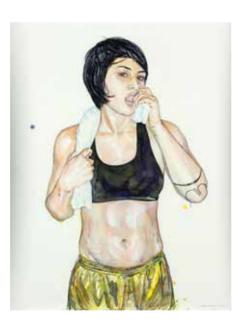
34

Lorraine Webb White Alert acrylic on canvas title inscribed, signed and dated 2005/2006 and inscribed *Central Panel* verso 2000 x 800mm \$1000 – \$2000



#### 2

Simon Payton Across the Great Divide acrylic on canvas title inscribed, signed and dated 2006 verso 1500 x 1000mm Provenance: Purchased from The Art Library, Petone in April 2007. \$3000 - \$5000



#### 35

Sarah Larnach The Brave; Genevieve One watercolour signed and dated 2009 765 x 562mm Provenance: Purchased from Page Blackie, Wellington in June 2010. \$800 - \$1400



33

#### et al.

Screenprint for the Venice Biennale screenprint in an edition of 100 together with vinyl record 1160 x 780mm Provenance: Purchased from Webb's, Auckland in March 2012. \$1500 – \$2500



36

#### John Pule

Restless Spirit lithograph, a/p title inscribed, signed and dated 2000 765 x 562mm Provenance: Purchased from Webb's, Auckland in March 2012. \$1500 – \$2000

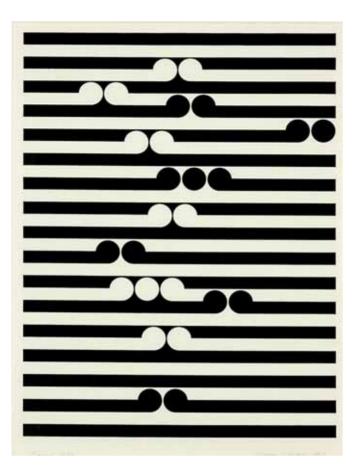
# IMPORTANT PAINTINGS & CONTEMPORARY ART

6.30PM

LOTS 37-126

Marti Friedlander, Milan Mrkusich in his studio Detail from *Contemporary New Zealand Painters Vol. 1 A–M*, 1980. Photograph courtesy of Marti Friedlander.





#### Gordon Walters

Tama silkscreen print, 35/50 title inscribed, signed and dated 1977 855 x 502mm

#### Provenance:

Collection of Jim Fraser, Auckland. Private collection, Dunedin. Acquired from 'The Jim Fraser Collection' auction, Webb's, Lot No. 5, November 9, 2006.

\$10 000 - \$15 000

39

#### Michael Parekowhai

Elmer Keith type C photograph, edition of 10 original Michael Lett label affixed verso 500 x 620mm \$6000 - \$9000 38

#### Michael Parekowhai The Bosom of Abraham

screenprinted vinyl on fluorescent light housing 1300 x 200 x 80mm

Provenance: Private collection, Auckland.

\$6000 - \$9000







#### Ronnie van Hout

Hello, Goodbye plastic, paint, wig and fake-fur wig together with audio components, 2008 320 x 540 x 600 x mm

\$14 000 - \$20 000

Exhibited: 'Ronnie van Hout: I've Abandoned Me', Dunedin Public Art Gallery, 5 July – 19 October, 2008 (touring nationally).

Illustrated: *Pavement*, No. 58, April – May, 2003, pp. 102 – 103. Anthony Byrt, 'Who's There?: Ronnie van Hout and the Anti-Hero Aesthetic', *Art New Zealand*, No. 108, Spring 2003, pp. 70 – 71.

Provenance: Private collection, Auckland.

#### 41

#### Rohan Wealleans

Black Swan acrylic, found cinema poster and coloured paper 1000 x 700 x 110mm \$6000 - \$9000



Peter Peryer Julie gelatin silver print, circa 1977 140 x 195mm \$4500 - \$6500



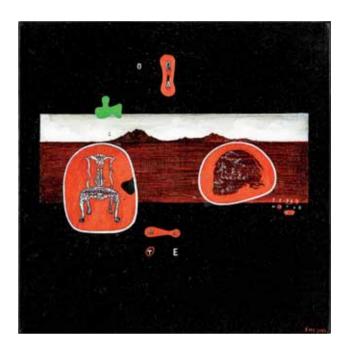
43

#### Shane Cotton

Stelliferous Biblia XII acrylic on canvas title inscribed, signed and dated 2001 verso 355 x 355mm

Provenance: Private collection, Auckland.

\$7000 - \$12 000



44

#### Karl Maughan

Avonside oil on canvas title inscribed, signed and dated '06 verso 1012 x 1012mm

Provenance: Private collection, Auckland.

\$15 000 - \$20 000



Jae Hoon Lee Farm type C print, edition of 8 1065 x 1180mm

Provenance: Private collection, Auckland.

\$6500 - \$8500



46

#### Ava Seymour

*G. I Girls* from *Health, Happiness, Housing* colour hand-print on Agfa paper, edition of 5 signed and dated 1997 verso 722 x 890mm

Provenance: Private collection, Auckland.

\$4000 - \$6000

#### 47

Fiona Pardington Choker gelatin silver print, 1993 595 x 490mm

Provenance: Private collection, Taranaki. Purchased by the current owner from Jensen Gallery, Auckland in 1994.

\$2500 - \$4000



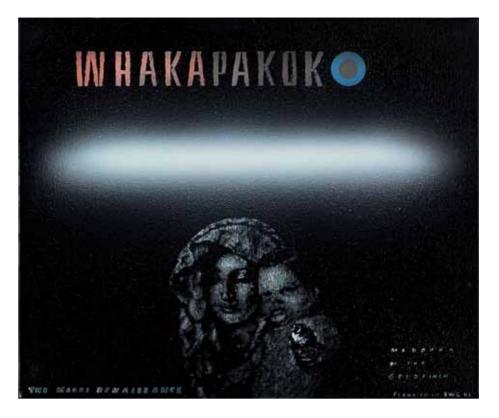


#### Shane Cotton

Madonna of the Goldfinch acrylic on canvas title inscribed, signed with artist's initials S. W. C and dated '03 and inscribed WHAKAPAKOKO, The Maori Renaissance, Fleur-De-Lis 375 x 452mm

Provenance: Private collection, Canterbury.

\$8000 - \$12 000



49

#### Stephen Bambury

Letters to Paul (VIII) resin and graphite on panel title inscribed, signed and dated 2001 verso 555 x 610mm

Provenance: Private collection, Auckland.

\$8000 - \$12 000



## Julian Dashper

The Deep (past) 3 acrylic, watercolour and ink on paper title inscribed, signed and dated 6/4/89 – 9/5/89 595 x 800mm

Provenance: Private collection, Wellington.

\$3800 - \$5500





51

## Charles Tole

Abstract Pattern oil on board signed; title inscribed on artist's original catalogue label affixed verso 467 x 393mm

Illustrated: Jill Trevelyan, Peter McLeavey: The life and times of a New Zealand art dealer (Te Papa Press, 2013), pp. 244 – 245.

Provenance: Private collection, Auckland.

\$3000 - \$5000



## 52

## Michael Illingworth

Untitled watercolour, gouache and ink on paper signed and dated '62 245 x 190mm

Provenance: Private collection, Auckland.

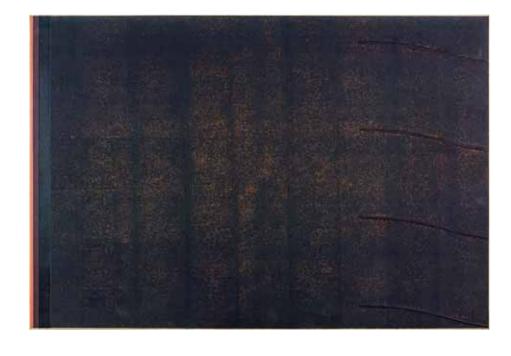
\$5000 - \$8000

#### Geoff Thornley

For Don No. 8 oil on canvas title inscribed, signed and dated 33. 94 verso; original Vavasour Godkin label affixed verso 1100 x 1600mm

Provenance: Private collection, Auckland.

\$10 000 - \$16 000





## 54

## Gretchen Albrecht

Study for Nocturne acrylic and oil on canvas signed and dated '91; title inscribed and dated on artist's original label affixed verso 1000 x 1500mm

Provenance: Private collection, Wellington.

\$14 000 - \$20 000

Sara Hughes Download II acrylic on canvas title inscribed, signed and dated 2005 verso 1500 x 1500mm

\$10 000 - \$15 000



56

#### Lionel Bawden

Untitled (Large Wallpiece) staedtler pencils, epoxy resin and linseed oil signed and dated 2003 verso 760 x 760 x 40mm

#### Provenance:

Private collection, Auckland. Purchased by the current owner from Grant Pirrie, Sydney, Australia.

#### Exhibited:

'Lionel Bawden: The Spring Tune', Dunedin Public Art Gallery, 6 December 2003 – 29 February 2004.

\$10 000 - \$15 000

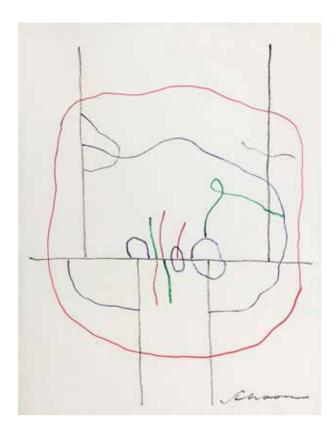


Theo Schoon

Reflected Memories mixed media on cardboard signed; title inscribed verso 634 x 505mm

Provenance: Collection of Professor Emeritus Michael Dunn.

\$6000 - \$9000



58

#### Louise Henderson

Abstract Painting – Bush Series oil on board signed and dated 1973 1200 x 893mm

Provenance: Purchased by the current owner from Webb's, 10 November, 1994, Lot No. 21.

\$14 000 - \$18 000



#### Laurence Aberhart

Taranaki (The Heavens Declare the Glory of God), New Plymouth, 14 May, 1986 gold and selenium toned gelatin silver print title inscribed, signed and dated 1986/1991 195 x 245mm

Provenance: Private collection, Dunedin.

\$7000 - \$12 000



60

## Laurence Aberhart

Midway Beach, Gisborne gold and selenium toned gelatin silver print title inscribed, signed and dated 1986/1994 195 x 245mm

Provenance: Private collection, Dunedin.

\$5000 - \$8000





## Fiona Pardington

Whale Bone Kotiate, O'Kains Bay Museum, 2002 gelatin silver hand-print 563 x 405mm

Provenance: Private collection, Wellington.

\$5500 - \$7500

## 63

#### Fiona Pardington

Te huia kai-manawa: the huia who consumes my heart (vertical) in love songs, a sweetheart was described thus. gelatin silver print, 2002 583 x 460mm

Provenance: Private collection, Taranaki. Purchased by the current owner from McNamara gallery, Whanganui in 2002.

\$5500 - \$7500

## Fiona Pardington

62

Hei Tiki (female), Ngai Tahu, Christchurch, Banks Peninsula Area (Waru), Okains Bay Museum, 2002 gelatin silver hand-print 563 x 427mm

Provenance: Private collection, Wellington.

\$5500 - \$7500





### Rohan Wealleans

*Tropical Ice Cream Tuesday* acrylic on canvas, 2008 2100 x 2050mm

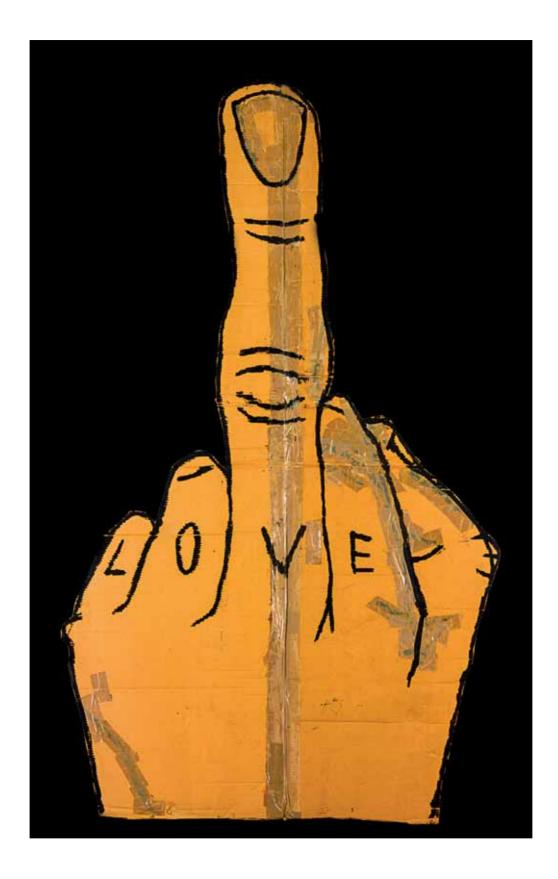
#### Provenance:

Private collection, Auckland. Purchased by the current owner from Ivan Anthony Gallery, Auckland in July 2008.

### Note:

The companion painting to this work, *Blade Healers* (2008) is in the Auckland University Collection.

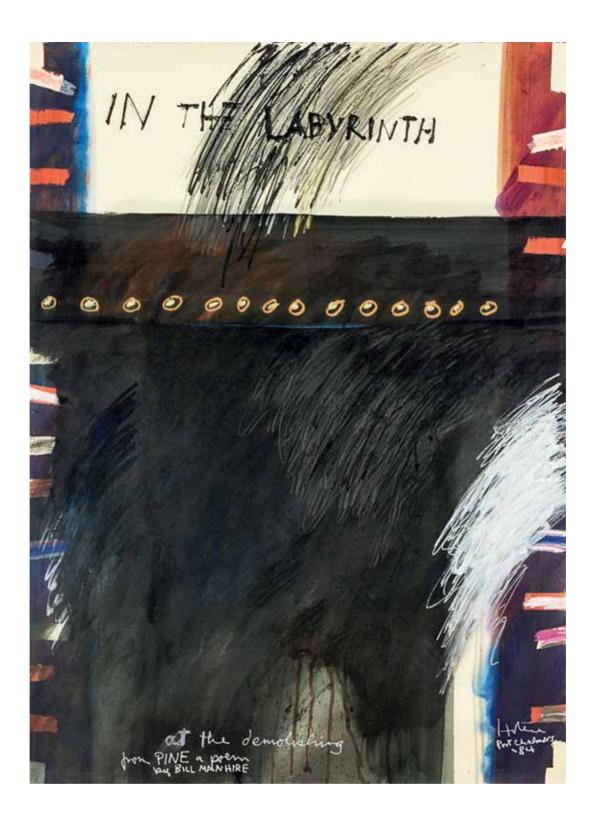
\$14 000 - \$20 000



Peter Robinson Love Finger acrylic on corrugated card signed and dated '96 verso 2340 x 1350mm

Provenance: Private collection, Auckland.

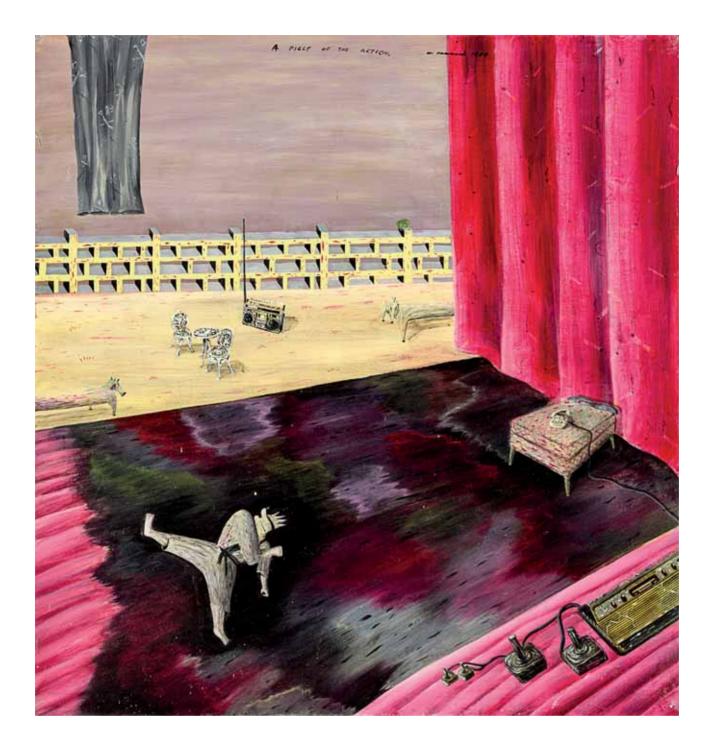
\$15 000 - \$25 000



#### Ralph Hotere In the labyrinth, at the demolishing acrylic on paper title inscribed, signed and dated Port Chalmers '84 and inscribed from Pine a Poem by Bill Manhire 1050 x 750mm

Provenance: Private collection, Wellington.

\$28 000 - \$38 000

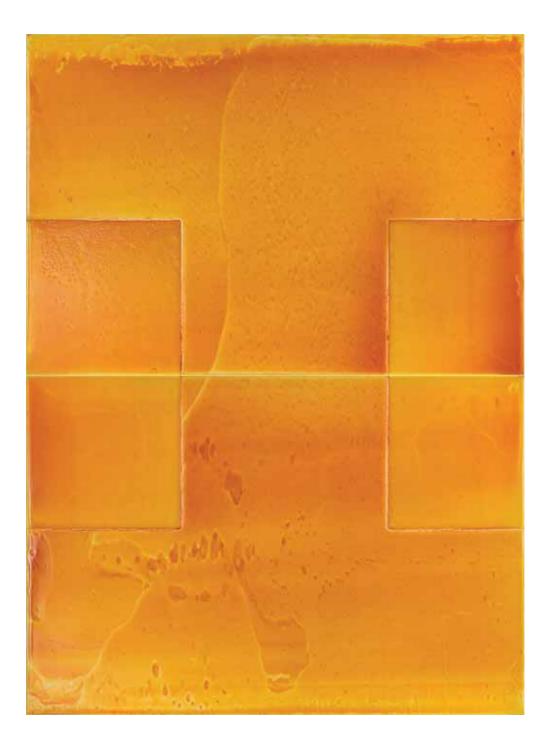


Bill Hammond

A Piece of the Action acrylic on aluminium title inscribed, signed and dated 1972 verso 807 x 765mm

Provenance: Private collection, Wellington.

\$22 000 - \$30 000



## Stephen Bambury

Necessary Correction (XVI) acrylic and resin on two aluminium panels title inscribed, signed and dated 2004/2005 verso 1170 x 855mm

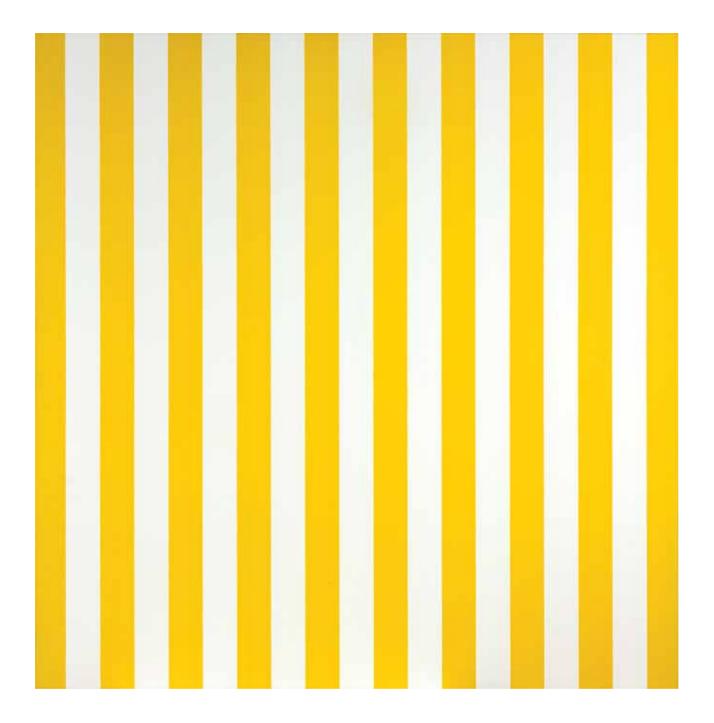
Provenance: Private collection, Wellington.

\$25 000 - \$35 000



Judy Millar Red I acrylic and oil on canvas title inscribed verso 1800 x 1600mm

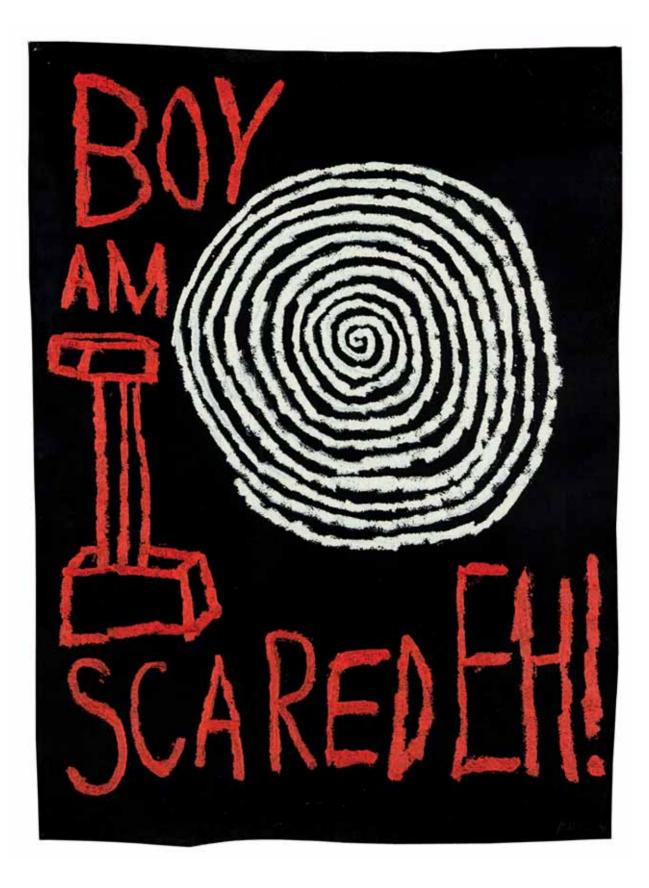
\$18 000 - \$26 000



Julian Dashper Untitled (1991) sprayed acrylic on industrial canvas 1500 x 1445mm

Provenance: Private collection, Wellington.

\$18 000 - \$26 000



## Peter Robinson

Boy Am I Scared Eh! acrylic and oilstick on paper signed and dated '97 935 x 670mm

Provenance: Private collection, Auckland.

\$25 000 - \$35 000



## **Richard Killeen**

The Politics of Geometry acrylic and collage on aluminium, 27 parts title inscribed, signed and dated March 8, 1991; artist's original catalogue label affixed each piece verso 1330 x 1670mm: installation size variable

Exhibited: 'The Politics of Geometry', Sue Crockford Gallery, Auckland, 1991.

Provenance: Private collection, Wellington.

\$25 000 - \$35 000



Judy Millar Untitled oil and acrylic on canvas signed and dated 2005 verso 2320 x 1770mm \$30 000 - \$40 000



## Pablo Picasso (Spain, 1881 – 1973)

Chouette Femme (Owl Woman) partially glazed earthenware, 1951 (edition of 500) signed in brushpoint 'edition Picasso'; stamped 'Edition Picasso' and 'Madoura' to underside 300 x 210 x 150mm

#### Provenance:

Private collection, Christchurch. Purchased by the current owners in 1965 from Madoura Pottery, Vallauris France.

\$10 000 - \$16 000

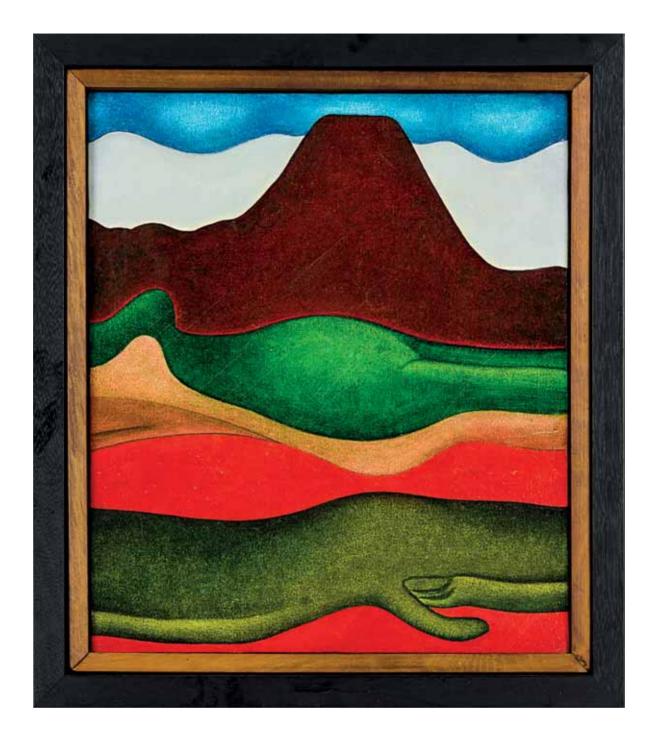


## Ralph Hotere

Mungo at Aramoana oil on board title inscribed, signed with artist's initials *R. H* and dated '82; signed and dated and inscribed *Frame by Roger Hickin* verso 295 x 275mm: excluding frame 385 x 365mm: including frame

Provenance: Private collection, Otago.

\$18 000 - \$26 000



Michael Illingworth Rangi and Papa (Creation Series) oil on canvas signed and dated '71 verso 300 x 252mm

Provenance: Private collection, Hawke's Bay.

\$35 000 - \$50 000

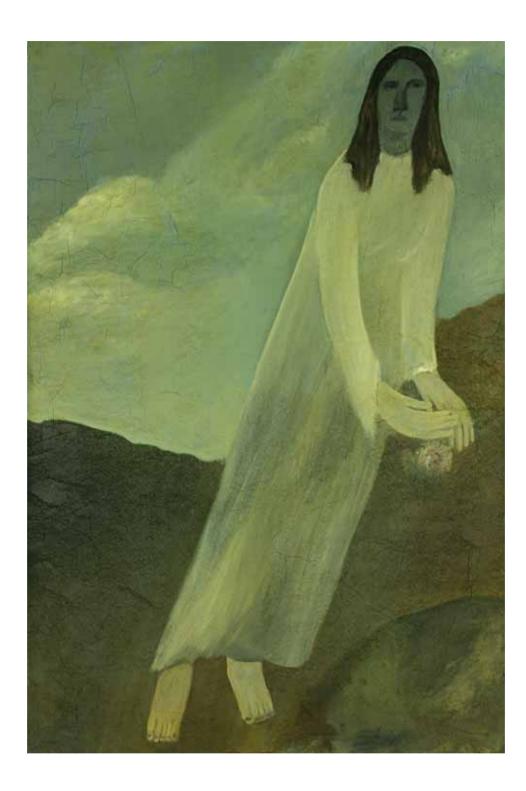


Stephen Bambury 'Even Though It Appears Abstract' (Chakra №5) acrylic and graphite on seven aluminium panels title inscribed, signed and dated 1992 each panel verso 2765 x 500mm

Illustrated: Wystan Curnow and William McAloon, *Stephen Bambury* (Craig Potton, 2000), p. 154.

Provenance: Private collection, Auckland.

\$30 000 - \$40 000



Star Gossage Taenga Mai oil on canvas title inscribed, signed and dated 'Pakiri 2005' verso 1520 x 1010mm \$18 000 – \$26 000

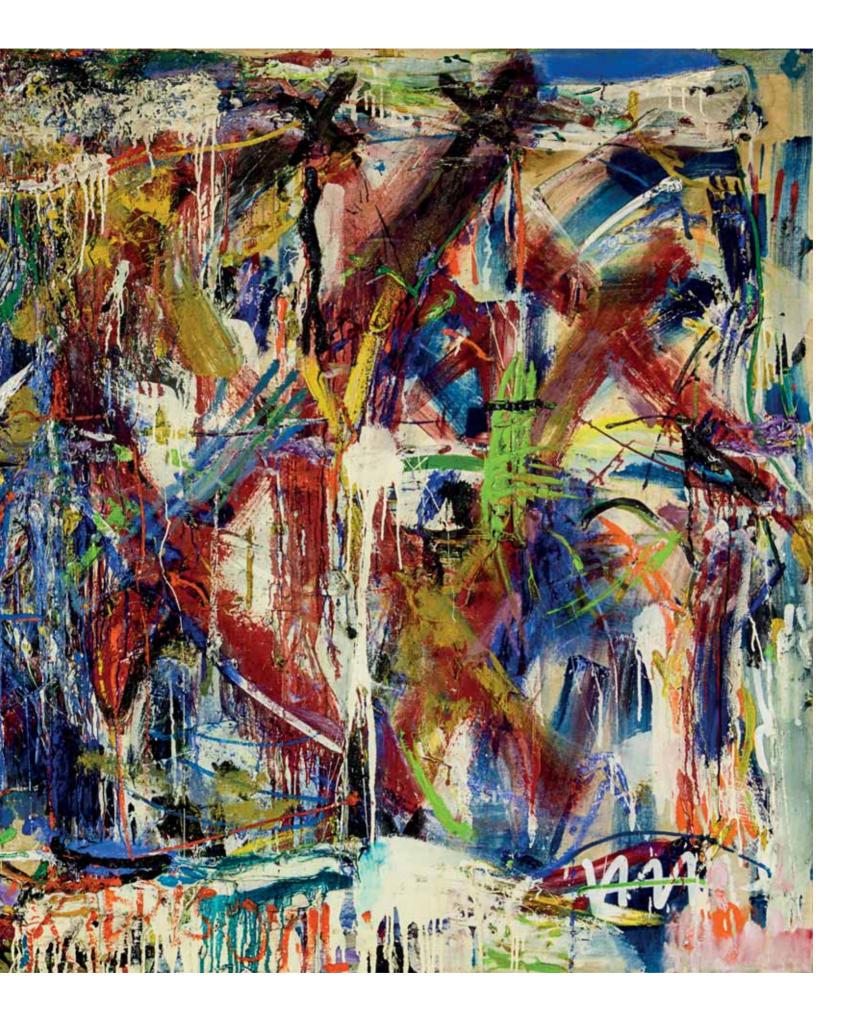
## Allen Maddox

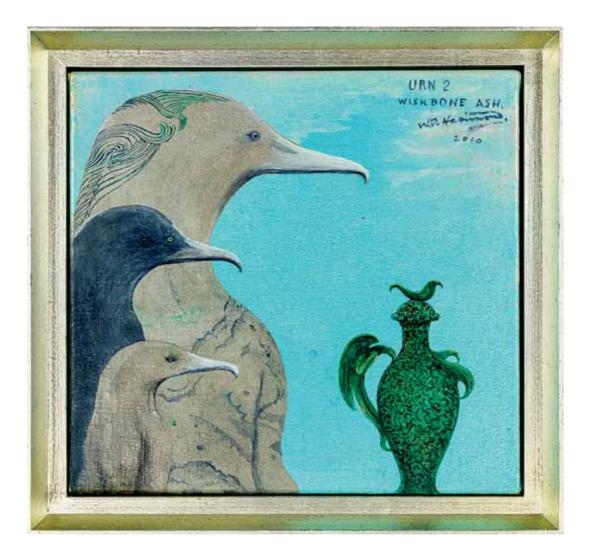
Kidd is Owl oil on canvas title inscribed and signed with artist's initials A. M 1685 x 2430mm

Provenance: Private collection, Tauranga.

\$30 000 - \$40 000







## Bill Hammond

*Urn 2: Wishbone Ash* acrylic on Belgian linen title inscribed, signed and dated 2010 405 x 422mm

Provenance: Private collection, Wellington.

\$35 000 - \$50 000



Tony Fomison

That Man, That Mountain, Taranaki oil on canvas inserted in original kauri butter dish title inscribed, inscribed Cat No. 231 and \$200 verso 235mm: diameter including frame 135mm: diameter including frame

> Provenance: Private Collection, Auckland.

#### Illustrated:

Te Miringa Hohaia, Gregory O' Brien and Lara Strongman (eds), *Parihaka: The Art of Passive* Resistance (Victoria University Press, 2001), p. 160

## Literature:

Lara Strongman, 'Your history goes way back: Tony Fomison and Taranaki', in Te Miringa Hohaia, Gregory O' Brien and Lara Strongman (eds), *Parihaka: The Art* of Passive Resistance, p. 154 – 160.

\$22 000 – \$32 000

## Max Dupain

82

Sun Baker gelatin silver print, photograph taken in 1937, printed in the early 1980s original blind stamp applied verso; authenticated and signed by the artist's son, Rex Dupain verso 470 x 525mm: image size

Provenance: Purchased by the current owners from Josef Lebovic Gallery, Melbourne Art Fair, 2004.

\$14 000 - \$18 000

Sunbaker is more than just a young man on the beach sunbathing. It is iconic, it is a symbol of the body in contact with primal forces. These are elemental, regenerating forces, and the body on the beach gains sustenance from the earth, the sun and water.

— Isobel Crombie

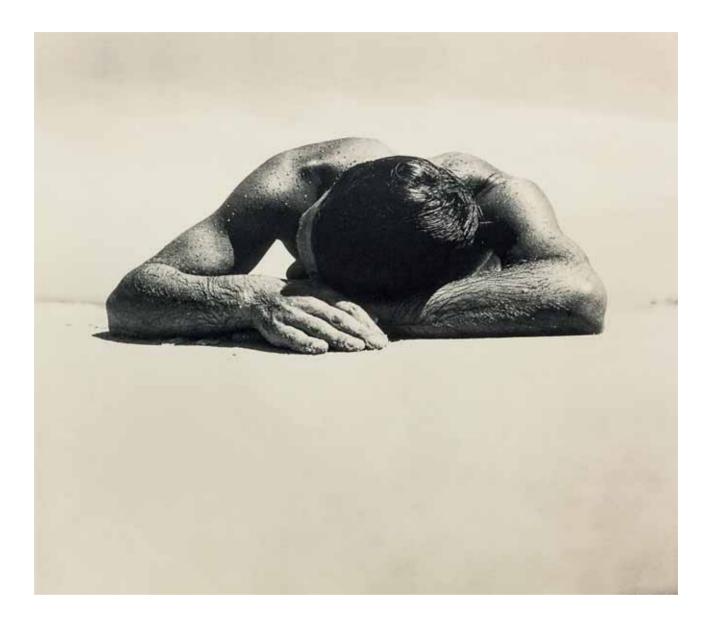
Sun Baker (1937) is the most iconic and widely admired photograph in Australian art history. Taken by Max Dupain who was born in Sydney in 1911, the image did not however enter Australian consciousness until 1975 when the first serious solo exhibition of the Modernist photographer's work was mounted by the Australian Centre of Photography. Indeed, up until this point the photographer had not even bothered to make a print from the negative.

The photograph was one of several taken on a hot day at Culburra Beach, a small town on the coast of New South Wales and is of Harold Salvage, a friend of Dupain's and who, along with the photographer, was part of a group of friends on a surfing expedition. The image has somehow managed to become part of the national identity of Australians, symbolizing health, vitality, a love of the outdoors and an appreciation of sport and relaxation. Inspired by the Modernist photography of Dupain's European counterparts, the photographer took the image from a particularly low angle and thus transformed the subject's body into a single monolithic pyramidal form set against the horizon.

Sun Baker presents the body of Harold Savage, interestingly a British man, as both a metaphor for social wellbeing and as an exemplar of pure form. It was an image that the photographer gradually and understandably grew to resent as increasingly it came to define a seventy odd year practice. Initially he spoke of the image with some fondness recalling: "It was a simple affair. We were camping down the south coast and one of my friends leapt out of the surf and slammed down onto the beach to have a sunbake – marvellous. We made the image and it's been around, I suppose as a sort of icon of the Australian way of life". However, Dupain would later refer to the picture as "that bloody sunbaker... I'm a bit worried about it. I think it has taken on too much...".

Max Dupain was honoured with an Order of the British Empire in 1982 and was awarded a life member of the Royal Australian Institute of Architecture for his extensive contribution to Australian architectural photography. Two monographs on his work were published in the 1980s. He passed away in 1992 at the age of 81.

**Ben Plumbly** 



## **Gordon Walters**

#### 83

Untitled gouache on paper signed and dated 1959/60 and inscribed reverse dark to light 367 x 260mm

#### Provenance:

Collection of Professor Emeritus Michael Dunn, former Head of Art History and Fine Arts at the University of Auckland, board member of Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki and author of the definitive 1983 monograph which coincided with the artist's Auckland Art Gallery retrospective, *Gordon Walters*. Purchased by him directly from the artist in 1979.

\$35 000 - \$50 000

Before he began his iconic series of koru paintings in 1964, Walters had made an important group of gouaches in which he experimented with the limited range of forms found in the larger works. In fact these gouaches, of which this example is one, allowed him to test out his ideas and resolve the problems confronting him in his radical series. Few of them survives and they can be seen as among his rarest and most important images despite their modest size.

These koru gouaches follow on almost imperceptibly from his other gouaches of the mid 1950s and overlap them at a time when the importance of the koru was not as obvious as it appears in retrospect. He was then using a variety of other compositional motifs such as rectangles and curving lines which interact with them in subtle ways. He was much concerned with the role of chance and the subconscious in the creation of these works and had studied the drawings of a schizophrenic collected by his friend and admirer Theo Schoon. Precisely when Walters first painted a gouache using the koru form is hard to pinpoint but it appears to have been in 1956. Schoon was studying Maori moko at that time and there was a fertile exchange of ideas between Schoon and Walters

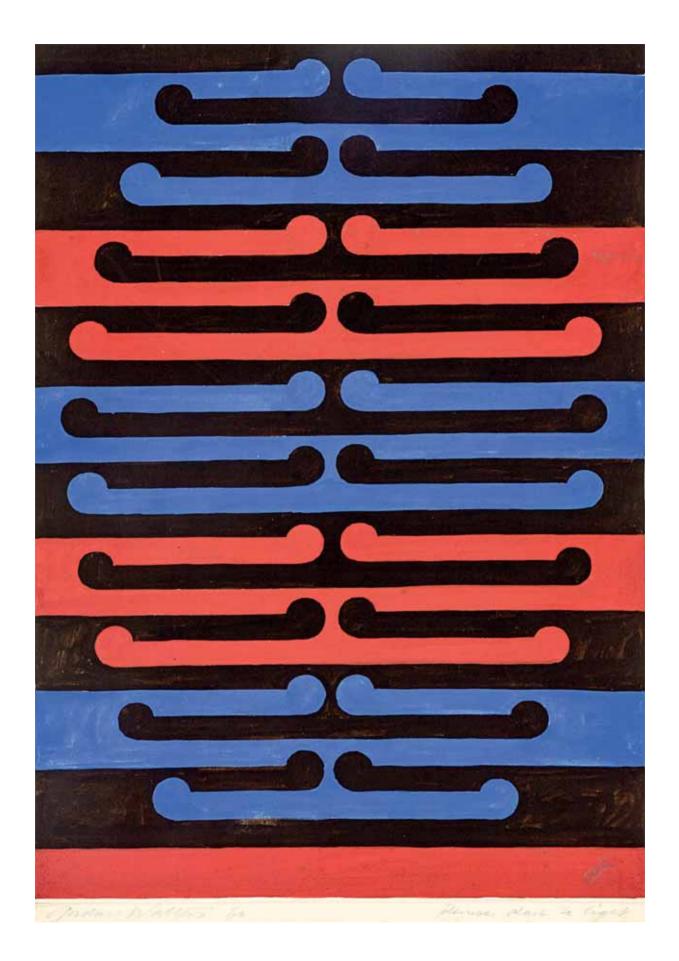
I came across the present gouache when going through Walters' works on paper while I was doing intensive research on his art in the late 1970's. It was one of a number of coloured gouaches using the koru he had made and was one he felt was important because of the degree to which it anticipated his first large paintings of the motif. In fact it is close compositionally to the work *Painting No* 7, 1965. It has the bilateral symmetry recalling moko designs and the widening of the motifs at the centre and tapering top and bottom found in them. This gives the totemic and confrontational quality so important to its impact. The interplay of positive and negative readings of the bands and terminations is fully understood so as to produce an effect of virtual space and movement.

By contrast with the later large paintings it appears more spontaneous as if the idea and execution went closer together than was possible with the big works where precision was critical and premeditation essential. It is painted without the careful attention to hard edge finish of the large paintings. Also, the colour is bright and lively as in his other gouaches of the 1950's. This small work vibrates with the energy and intensity of fresh discovery. He was onto something and he knew it. The dates pencilled around the margin indicate the period 1959-60 for its creation. Undoubtedly it is a remarkable work notable for its own beauty as an object and also for its importance in the evolution of the koru series.

After I bought the gouache directly from Walters its fate was to remain stored rather than hung, studied rather than lived with. It has as a result spent little time on the wall and thus retains its freshness of colour. It ranks as one of his most visually appealing gouaches using the koru motif.

It was reproduced as Plate 93 in my PhD thesis The Art of Gordon Walters, Auckland University, 1985.

Michael Dunn



## **Gordon Walters**

#### 84

Untitled – No. I acrylic on paper title inscribed, signed and dated 78/90 and 28. 11. 90; inscribed No. I 768 x 566mm

> Provenance: Private collection, Wellington.

> > \$50 000 - \$70 000

Whilst Gordon Walters 'koru' imagery today has become all pervasive, having become one of the crossover motifs of New Zealand in the 21st century, there was a time when Walters deemed his engagement with this quintessential indigenous symbol so outside the prevailing conversation of New Zealand culture of the day that he chose not to exhibit from the late 1940s until the mid-1960s. These 'invisible years' were the subject of an essay by Michael Dunn entitled The Enigma of Gordon Walters Art published in Art New Zealand in 1978. In this essay Dunn reveals the careful process of experimentation, almost like lab work, that Walters initiated to arrive at the mature style that we can observe in this pristine work in paper, 'From a gradual process of trial and error, and out of the realisation that there was no need to constantly invent new forms, he isolated a severely geometric version of the 'koru' as a personal signature theme. Perfecting that motif took some eight years of dedicated labour. In its final form, as seen in works from the first New Vision Gallery show of 1966, it is incredibly simple - so right that it seems obvious and inevitable.

The recent exhibition (October 2015) entitled Gordon Walters: Gouaches and a Painting from the 1950s curated by Laurence Simmons at Starkwhite Gallery in Auckland, revealed exactly what Walters was doing in that decade. The 19 works from the artist's estate reveal Walters processing a range of European modernist idioms of the day, moving through the gears as it were, before Walters, in tandem with Theo Schoon, split the atom and was able to locate best practice postwar modernism in a New Zealand context - a classic first mover's example of 'thinking global and acting local'.

Walters described this classic contextualisation in reverse in 1969, "The koru-like form which is represented in my paintings is not a reproduction of the koru used in the kowhaiwhai... the motif is used to establish rhythms that are for the most part deliberately mechanistic..." <sup>1</sup>

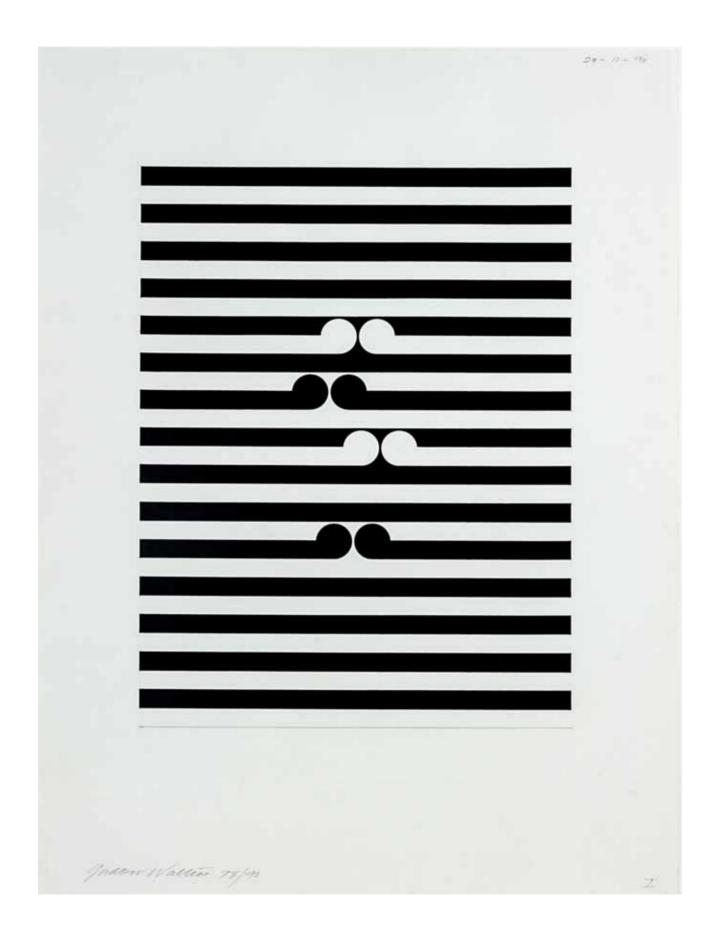
The first koru images emerged in 1956 but it took another decade for these works to be refined, (the trial and error referred to by Dunn above) and ready to exhibit at the landmark exhibition at the New Vision Gallery in 1966. From the outset these mid 1960s works such as Painting No.1 in the Auckland Art Gallery Collection, Te Whiti (1964) or Tahi (1967) reveal their formal kinship with later works such as Rongotai (1970) or Mokoia (1975) and to this fine ink on paper that required 12 years to resolve. The research and enquiry of the 1950s sustained Walters for the balance of his life. There is a sense that Walters was so grounded in the validity of his experiments, in their empirical veracity, that the execution of the korus allowed for endless variety once the essential co-ordinates had been locked in place.

It is important when looking at this work dating from 1979 – 1990 to have this backstory, for such a work is the tip of a mighty iceberg of cultural and conceptual groundwork. This example features four opposing 'sets' of korus, two 'positive' and two 'negative' held within four bands of complete black and white rows above and below. Other koru works feature intense groupings of bulbs or isolated 'islands'. This example sits somewhere in the middle in terms of articulation. That each example, feels 'right' is further testimony to the abundant, fluid power of the koru form to regenerate itself under Walters' guidance - as he reveals in the same interview, "This motif provides me with the expressive means I need for my work... The form is used to establish relationships and is varied in both positive and negative forms so that an ambiguity between figure and ground is created...the success or failure of the work depends on the use that is made of it."2

Hamish Coney

'Gordon Walters: an interview' published

- in *Salient*, Vol. 32, No. 9, 1969
- 2 ibid





### **Gordon Walters** *Untitled* acrylic on paper title inscribed, signed and dated '88 and 10. 10. 88

470 x 395mm Provenance: Private collection, Wellington.

\$11 000 - \$16 000

## Gordon Walters

Variation II acrylic on paper title inscribed, signed and dated '87 and 15. 5. 87 605 x 402mm

Provenance: Private collection, Wellington. Purchased by the current owner from Sue Crockford Gallery, Auckland, October 16, 1987.

\$11 000 - \$16 000



87

Gordon Walters Untitled acrylic on paper title inscribed, signed and dated '87 and 21. 5. 87 510 x 400mm

Provenance: Private collection, Wellington.

\$11 000 - \$16 000



# Milan Mrkusich

#### 88

#### Golden Passive Element oil on jute title inscribed, signed and dated 1965 verso 865 x 865mm

\$50 000 - \$70 000

Milan Mrkusich was the first artist to make a non-objective abstract painting in this country and has never deviated from the self-imposed path he originally forged in the late 1940s right up to his most recent body of work in the 21st Century. He was made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit in 1997 for services to painting and is one of ten Arts Foundation Icon Award recipients.

The artist's 1965 painting *Golden Passive Element* would have to be among his most simple yet eloquent pictorial statements. One of the key works from the small 1965 series simply known as the 'Elements', the work possesses exactly the state of pictorial harmony and visual unity which he was striving for. Each of the paintings in the series take as their starting point the square and the circle. Geometric opposites, the circle and square are forms that have a rich legacy in both international modernism and in greater history itself, going back to the dawn of time.

The transition from the interrelated 'Emblem' paintings of the preceding years witnessed the painter turning away from the expressionist handling of paint which characterised the earlier series. As a result works such as *Golden Passive Element* possess a greater factual objectivity, ostensibly displaying little more than what the artist referred to as 'the facts of its own particular existence.' Another hallmark of the 'Element' series is also a greater emphasis on

materiality and whilst the paint is applied in a more even-handed manner here the artist investigates more deeply than hitherto issues of colour and texture, the latter exacerbated especially by the coarse jute support he chose.

If it is the intrinsic voices of the artist's chosen materials which initially predominate, on closer inspection it is the formal possibilities of the circle contained within the square which command our attention. The artist repeats or mirrors them in this particular iteration. It is, like the artist's great contemporary Gordon Walters, a composition repeated within itself, a reflection of itself, what Francis Pound has referred to in relation to Walters as a composition 'en-abyme'.

The circle is a sign without start or finish, symbolising god or eternity, whilst the square represents a hermetic unit 'comprised of forces and oppositions in a state of released equilibrium.' Taken together these forms stand for both spiritual and aesthetic unity.

It is from these duals readings – the physical facticity and the transcendental possibilities – that the painting gains its considerable visual and conceptual heft. *Golden Passive Element*, along with all of Mrkusich's finest paintings, possesses that unique ability to stimulate both the eye and the mind to create a truly worthwhile and sustaining visual experience.

Ben Plumbly

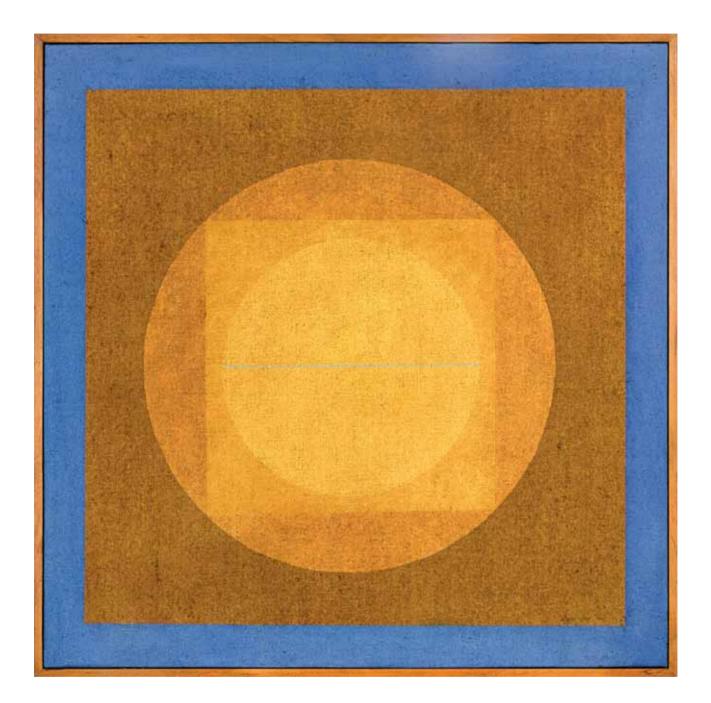
Exhibited: 'Milan Mrkusich: Paintings from 1960 – '66', March 21 – April 1966, Barry Lett Galleries, Auckland.

Illustrated:

Alan Wright and Edward Hanfling, *Mrkusich: the Art of Transformation* (Auckland University Press, 2009), p. 48.

#### Provenance:

From the collection of Odo and Jocelyn Strewe, well-known proprietors of the lively bohemian café Babel, situated next door to Barry Lett Galleries. Odo Strewe was also a member of 'The Group' and a highly regarded Modernist landscape architect. Purchased by them in July 1966.





## Milan Mrkusich

Yellow Achromatic acrylic on Belgian linen title inscribed, signed and dated 1992 verso 1725 x 1015mm

#### Provenance:

Purchased by the current owner, together with *Red Achromatic*, from Sue Crockford Gallery, Auckland, March 1993.

\$45 000 - \$65 000



### Milan Mrkusich

*Red Achromatic* acrylic on Belgian linen title inscribed, signed and dated 1992 verso 1725 x 1015mm

#### Provenance:

Purchased by the current owner, together with *Yellow Achromatic*, from Sue Crockford Gallery, Auckland, March 1993.

\$45 000 - \$65 000



### Ann Robinson

*Ice Bowl* cast glass signed and dated '93 and inscribed *No. 40* 250 x 360 x 360mm

#### Exhibited:

'Ann Robinson: Casting Light – a survey of glass castings 1981 – 1997', Dowse Art Museum, Lower Hutt, 27 February – 20 May, 1998 (touring to Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki).

#### Illustrated:

Laurence Fernley, Ann Robinson: Casting Light – a survey of glass castings 1981 – 1997 (Wellington, 1998), unpaginated.

#### Provenance: Private collection, Wellington.

Casting 40 – 50 kilo pieces is extremely challenging, pushing the technique to its limit. I have times of heavy loss, especially when developing new designs. I've sometimes unsuccessfully cast a new piece repeatedly over 6 months or so before resolving the problems. The *Ice Bowl* is such a piece, although now it is a joy to cast. The *Ice Bowl* actually plays a very special role in my work - rather like a weather vane... I use it to test changes I am always trying in the process such as mould materials, firing schedules, glasses, colourants and annealing. It's a piece that has changed immensely with these technical changes, and each time seems to be a new piece with its own idiosyncrasies and character... Really, I am concerned with the timelessness of beauty. The bowl for me is a form with multiple levels of meaning. The increase in size brings questions to the surface which are painful to answer. In the 20th century, what use have we for the 'ceremonial vessel'? For me the bowl evokes all that it has historically been from the earliest mortar through religious and ritual bowls, to the bowls that talk to satellites. The receiver, holder, protector, offerer and transmitter.

— Ann Robinson, Karekare, May 1993.

\$25 000 - \$35 000





Ann Robinson Side Carved Flax Pod cast glass signed and dated 1997 and inscribed No. 5 350 x 380 x 250mm

Provenance: Private collection, Wellington.

\$18 000 - \$26 000

93

Ann Robinson Cactus Vase cast glass signed and dated '97 and inscribed 1/1 600 x 165 x 165mm

Provenance: Private collection, Auckland.

\$16 000 - \$24 000

## **Ralph Hotere**

94

Ruia Ruia Opea Opea Tahia Tahia

acrylic and brolite lacquer on board title inscribed, signed and dated '77 and inscribed TENEI TAKU MANU TE RERE ATU NEI \_ HE KARERERE. NO TE WHITINGA MAI O TE RA \_ PATAIA MAI \_ I AHU MAI KOE I HEA? KO WAI KOE? This is my bird, that flies to you - a messenger - from where the sun rises. It asks from where have you come? WHO ARE YOU?; signed and dated Port Chalmers '77 and inscribed Group Show, '77. After exhibition please leave with Brooke/Gifford Gallery (if unsold) verso 1180 x 733mm

\$80 000 - \$120 000

The opening lines of this Muriwhenua karakia memorializes a legendary moment in tribal history when in escaping from a besieged pa tribespeople are said to have fled like Godwits or kuaka, scattering to the winds. *Ruia Ruia* from 1977 shares kinship and headline text with one of Hotere's greatest masterpieces: the 18 metre multi-panel mural *Godwit/Kuaka*, originally commissioned for the arrivals hall at Auckland Airport and now in the Chartwell Collection at Auckland Art Gallery, Toi o Tamaki.

Hotere, of Te Aupori and Te Rarawa descent in the Muriwhenua or far north of New Zealand returned to the harbingers of spring, the pipiwharauroa (Shining Cuckoo) and the kuaka repeatedly. These offshore visitors are metaphors for both the promise of regeneration and the mystery of journeying on many levels. Their perilous migration (in the case of the kuaka a journey of over 11 000 kilometres non-stop from Alaska) and all it symbolizes holds deep significance for the tribes of the Muriwhenua region, being a parable above all for the leap of faith that was their ancestors' migration to Aotearoa and a reminder of their ancient homeland to the north. Art Historian Kriselle Baker notes this connection in her essay He Kuaka Marangaranga A Godwit that Hovers, by quoting the historian Margaret Orbell, 'the kuaka's return (their departure in Autumn) each year still induces a feeling of melancholy: "When people see the kuaka beginning their journey they feel much emotion, because the kaumatua [the elders] have told them the kuaka are setting out for Hawaiki" '.1

Hotere's use of text is a defining element in his work. His collaborations with poets and writers such as Bill Manhire, Hone Tuwhare, Cilla McQueen and Ian Wedde provide ample evidence of the potency of the written word as a direct carrier of meaning, as opposed to explanation, in numerous phases of his career. Gregory O'Brien describes

> Illustrated: Kriselle Baker and Vincent O' Sullivan, *Hotere* (Auckland, 2008), p. 104.

Exhibited: 'The Group Show', Canterbury Society of Arts, Christchurch, 1977.

Provenance: Private collection, Christchurch Hotere's use of text thus, 'Hotere rarely uses titles to clarify a work – they tend to add further layers or, like all language he incorporates, function as a veil through which the image must be glimpsed.' <sup>2</sup>

Inscribed at the lower margin of *Ruia Ruia* is this traditional Maori waiata that elucidates the role and the mystery of the kuaka.

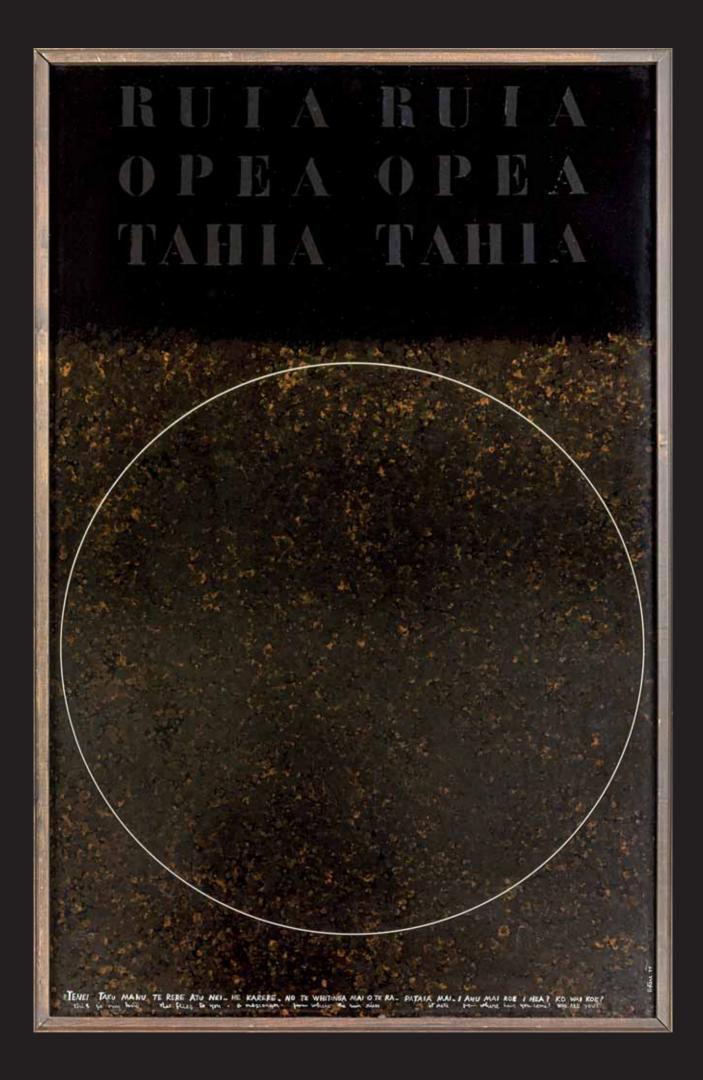
Tenei Taku Manu Te Rere Atu Nei This is my bird that flies to you He Karere – No Te Whitianga Mai o Te Ra O messenger – from where the sun rises Pataia Mai – I Ahu Mai Koe I Hea? Ko Wai Koe? It asks – from where have you come? Who are you?

These texts provide a set of metaphorical parameters for *Ruia Ruia* and the other works from this period that relate to the *Godwit/Kuaka* mural. Themes of voyaging, love of homeland, rejoicing at the birdsong of springtime and wonder at the fragility of these tiny messengers emerge from the very centre of Hotere's own personal, tribal and geographic origins and then expand into a wider, universal space. That a delicate creature such as a Godwit can communicate such searching questions as to the nature of our individual sense of identity *and* that these are so open ended goes to the heart of Hotere's great reach as an artist.

Layer upon layer of pigment, language, history, meaning, metaphor and interpretation settle like passing years, or veils, and each of these provide for one individual viewer a fleeting opportunity to seek, like the kuaka, their ultimate destiny.

Hamish Coney

- Margaret Orbell, *Birds of Aotearoa: A Natural and Cultural History*, Reed Publishing, Auckland, 2002, p.161 and quoted by Kriselle Baker in *Hotere*, Ron Sang Publications, Auckland, 2008, p.125
- Gregory O'Brien, Hotere Out the Black Window Ralph Hotere's work with New Zealand Poets, Godwit Publishing, Auckland in association with the City Gallery, Wellington, 1997, p.53



## Milan Mrkusich

95

*Trees No. 2* oil on board signed and dated '58; title inscribed and dated on catalogue label affixed verso 682 x 485mm

\$50 000 - \$70 000



The foyer of Chelsea House, Fort Street. Image courtesy of Lewis Mrkusich.

the outward and inward tilts, the bumps and hollows, of Cubism.

At the beginning of Fort Street on what was once Auckland's original shoreline is Chelsea House. Hyperbolically touted as belonging to 'Auckland's answer to New York's Meatpacking District', the building is currently being refurbished and in the process behind a scrim wall a most wonderful glass mosaic mural by Milan Mrkusich has been uncovered. Trees No. 2 was purchased from the Ikon Gallery in 1961 for £7.7.0 (seven guineas) by the original architect of Chelsea House, Geoffrey Rix-Trott, who commissioned Mrkusich to do the design for the entry fover. Both painting and mural use blocks of colour and black grid lines arranged in frieze-like arrays. It is not difficult to see how you get from the painting to the flustering magnetism of the colour abstractions of an actual mosaic wall. Trees No. 2 belongs to a moment when painting had symbolic force and function. It is telling to ask what was going on in New Zealand painting in 1958? McCahon, engaged on the Northland Panels, was painting the last of his Cubist kauri trees the likes of Pohutukawa Tree. High Tide (Dunedin Public Art Gallery). Gordon Walters was elaborating for the first time his gouaches of the loose koru form that would dominate his subsequent oeuvre. One painter hovers at the shoulders of these three New Zealand modernists. It is Piet Mondrian. McCahon would declare a few years later 'Mondrian, it seemed to me, came up in this century as a great barrier - the painting to END all painting'. Mondrian, in an essay Walters knew and quoted at the time, insisted that 'everything is expressed through relationships'. And Mrkusich here reworks Mondrian's tree paintings of almost 50 years earlier (see, for example, his Gray Tree of 1911). All three New Zealand artists pay candid and exhilarating homage to Mondrian.

The central term of Mrkusich's art formally and poetically is touch: it has always been how he lays his pigment on the canvas or support. Mrkusich's work looks expressionist but really isn't. If anything he downplays the emotion and his brushstroke is additive not gestural. Nevertheless, in *Trees No. 2* the patterning, packed and energised in smouldering colours, yields tensions that you can feel viscerally. The push and pull of cool and warm colours, or the front-and-back dynamic of linear designs overlaid on coloured grounds here suggests a racy rebirth of

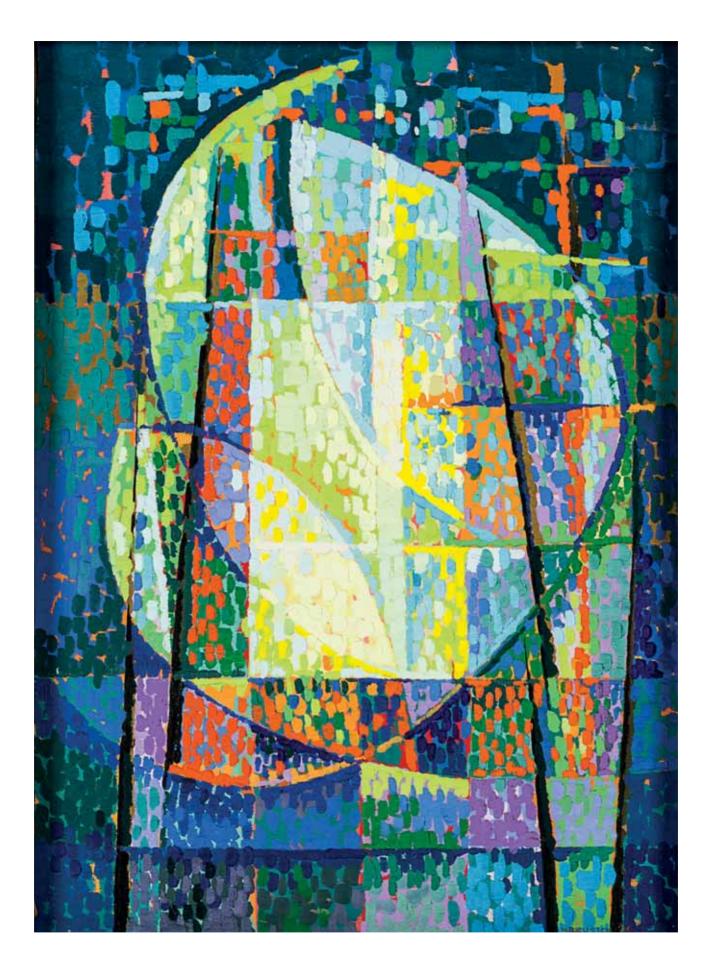
The uniform daubs of clarion primaries and secondaries are interspersed with flavourful tertiaries and, sometimes, blueblack. The glamour of the work alerts you to an onset of beauty, pending the appropriate feeling and an endorsement in thought. But the juxtapositions and the compositional rhythms of the colours, jarring ever so slightly, won't resolve into unity. What's going on? Does the artist aim at order and miss, or does he try, and fail, to destroy it? It's as if you can't quite get started looking, but you can stop only by force of will. The painting denies you the relief of disappointment. At length, beauty does arrive. though held together by the superimposed grid. Your desire and its frustration, impartially sustained, are ruled the work's subject. What is the light filtered through the leaves of a tree like? Mrkusich answers with stabs of creamy green-white, lemonyyellow and deep-blue shadow. The qualities of light feel gamely and deliberately speculative. The effect is like a fresh invention of the perceptual landscape painting as if in some way there had been no landscape before it. All of which supports Mrkusich's most famous apothegm: 'You want a landscape? Take a drive in the country' (Woman's Weekly, 1969). Mrkusich is a colourist of subtle moods: slight irritablities, piquant irresolutions. He leans toward the secondaries -orange, green, purple - which are painting's minor chords, but in muted, nonviolent relations. This painting sparingly favours orange, the most impossible of all hues employed in its densest pigmentations. As interior decorators know, orange is anti-decorative and will not 'go with' anything, as is Mrkusich's worrisome, vermouth-dry green. The fact Mrkusich's colours refuse to resolve into harmonies contributes to the delicate restlessness of his paintings. They provide keys to an underlying deliberation, in the paintings, which lets the colours feel spontaneous and inevitable in orchestrations that look similar at first but distinguish themselves by decisive adjustments of design. There is a philosophical heft to Mrkusich's work, a febrile curiosity and insatiable avidity that distinguishes the self-made man of taste.

Laurence Simmons

Exhibited: 'Eighteen Works: 1960 – 1961', The Gallery (later named Ikon Gallery), Auckland, 1961.

#### Provenance:

Purchased from the above exhibition for seven guineas by the architect and former chairman of the Mackelvie Trust, Geoffrey Rix-Trott. Rix-Trott was also the architect and designer of Chelsea House in Fort Street and was responsible for commissioning Mrkusich to undertake the contemporaneous mosaic mural in the foyer. Passed by descent to the current owner in Australia.



## **Don Binney**

96

*Waiti I* oil on board

signed and dated 1964 and inscribed *Te Henga*; original Auckland Art Gallery Loan label affixed verso; 'Contemporary New Zealand Painting, 1965, Commonwealth Institute, London', Queen Elizabeth II Arts council exhibition label affixed 1115 x 560mm

\$150 000 - \$200 000

Once upon a time there was a bird... So begins a story which lanet Frame remembered writing aged eight or nine. Then a hawk swooped down and ate the small bird. Next day, a big bogie appeared and swallowed up the hawk... Frame's tale, which she upheld in a 1965 *Landfall* essay as not only her first but also her best story, finds its visual equivalent in Don Binney's allegorical painting *Waiti I* (1964).

Like Frame's fable, Binney's canvas embodies cycles of death and life (compositionally, the image spins like a wheel, with the dead-centre of the work located where the dune touches the curve of the bay). Behind the foregrounded weka-birds, in their long grass or flaxen habitat—a tentative nest— a stylised beach unfurls. Looming above is the cloud-like form of a bird of prey— featureless, apart from a blunt beak-shape (much closer in style to a Maori carved design than to the birdwatcher's handbook).

During the 1960s, Don Binney's use of line was incisive and hard-edged, but seldom straight. His paintings translate their originating environment into waves, pulses and, in the case of *Waiti I*, a virtuosic orchestration of arabesques. With the tails and beaks of both weka—one facing left, the other right—touching the sides of the narrowformat painting, the birds are subsumed into the painting's undulating compositional rhythm.

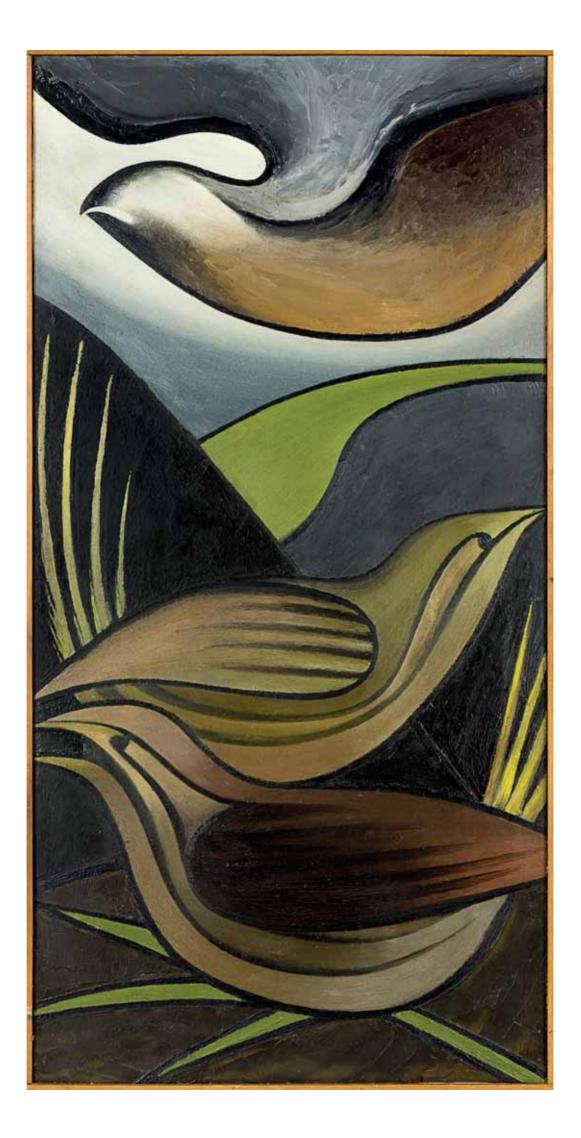
1964 was a watershed year for Don Binney. Living at Te Henga (or Bethell's Beach) on Auckland's West Coast, he had ironed out the uncertainties of his earlier work; his new paintings contained nothing extraneous. With works like *Kotare Over Ratana Church, Te Kao* on the way, his art was becoming conceptually and compositionally more adventurous. Produced at a time when the Harsh New Zealand Light argument was gaining momentum, *Waiti I* cuts across the Romantic and Nationalistic arguments into which Binney's trademark bird paintings were so frequently drawn. Rather than picturesque vistas, swimmable beaches and agreeable plumage, here he offers wetlands and trampled vegetation. One of Binney's darker meditations on Nature, *Waiti I* strikes a sombre, almost fatalistic note. Encroaching darkness, rather than brightness, permeates the scene, hinting at possible meanings well beyond the ornithological realm.

Throughout his career, Binney decried humanity's hawk-like domination of other species and, more generally, its 'predatory relationship to the rest of the living earth'. In the 1971 *Earth/ Earth* catalogue he noted how this nation's Pakeha forefathers were often 'ignorant, short sighted and brutal men who shaved the forest cover and scourged the topsoil... Pillage of a strange and tender land was their business and Empire's Gain.'

As Damien Skinner argued in his 2003 study, to call Don Binney a bird-painter is to sidestep the wider vision and conceptual underpinnings of his work.

Rather than portraying birds or landscape in a conventional or self-contained way, *Waiti I* proposes an *ecosystem* which extends beyond the natural world to contain elements of the mythical, historical and metaphysical. It is a powerful and pioneering work of the 'ecological conscience' which would remain a driving force throughout Binney's life and art.

Gregory O'Brien



## **Charles Frederick Goldie**

97

Wiripine Ninia – An Arawa Chieftainess oil on canvas in artist's original kauri frame signed and dated 1922 and inscribed *N. S. W*; title inscribed on artist's original catalogue label affixed verso 256 x 210mm

\$230 000 - \$300 000

Wiripine Ninia – an Arawa Chieftainess, of 1922, is a fine example of Charles Goldie's compelling technique, engagement with his subject and unique facility as a 'portrait' painter to create images whose resonance was understood at the time, and subsequently, to be far wider than the straightforward capture of likeness. Titles such as Memories, A Noble Relic of a Noble Race, The Whitening Snows of Venerable Eld and The Calm Close of Valours Various Day communicate the widely held view in the early 20th century that as a race Maori may have been in terminal decline. As this alarming quote from the New Zealand Herald of November 1901 reveals, there was a curious sense of both artistic obligation and opportunity in the recording of Maori 'examples', 'It is of real importance, apart from picture-making, that the types here so ably delineated should be preserved. The originals are fast disappearing... [they] will be extinct in a few years.

It is this context that informed Goldie's quest to capture his sitters and which gives his career the tenor of a long, painterly requiem. Given the few remaining examples of 'old time Maori' Goldie returned to his limited number of subjects repeatedly, and this naturally led to a degree of fraternity, even intimacy with his most frequent sitters that humanizes what might otherwise have been an exercise in ethnographic taxonomy.

This is certainly the case in his portraits of Wiripine Ninia whom Goldie depicted in at least ten canvases. An example from 1912, entitled *One of the Old School: Wiripine Ninia, a Ngatiawa Chieftainess*, is in the collection of the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa. The title inscribed on a label fixed to the back of the present work identifies Wiripine Ninia as 'an Arawa Chieftainess' – a mistaken tribal identification as other paintings of the subject, such as the 1912 version in the Te Papa collection, identify Wiripine Ninia as 'Ngatiawa' or 'Ngati Awa'. Wiripine Ninia was one of Goldie's most frequent subjects and appears often in the listings of Goldie's exhibitions compiled in Roger Blackley's *Goldie*.<sup>1</sup>

As was the case with many of Goldie's most favourite female sitters such as Tepaea Hinerangi (guide Sophia Grey circa 1832–1911), Kapi Kapi (circa 1800–1902) and Ina te Papatahi of *Darby and Ioan* fame, who died in about 1910, the artist depicted these key sitters, in the earlier phase of his career,

in both traditional and European dress or draped in checked blankets which enabled Goldie to demonstrate his bravura painting technique. However, as the dates above indicate, Goldie was in a race against time to capture the final generation of Maori who took the moko in the years before the Treaty of Waitangi in 1840. The practice of Ta moko diminished greatly from the 1860s as Maori society came under the multiple threats of colonisation, displacement due to regional land wars but above all the zeal of missionaries who 'paganised' many traditional practices.

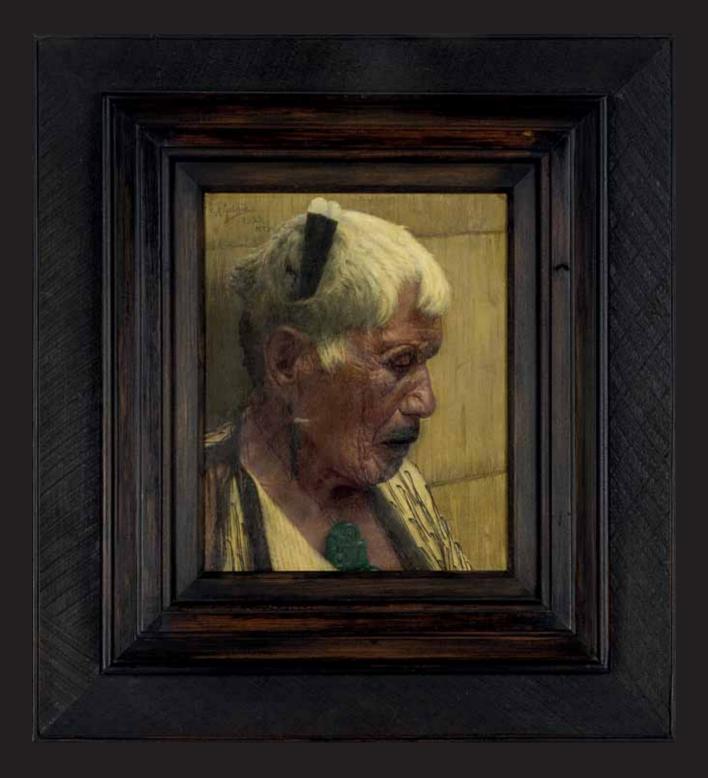
The 'old time Maori' that Goldie memorialized had all but died by the outset of WWI and later canvases tend to almost exclusively depict his subjects in traditional dress, as does this portrait of Wiripine, (one of a small number of works produced by Goldie during a two year stay in Sydney in the early 1920s) who is adorned with a pair of prized huia feathers, a shark's tooth earing and a pounamu hei tiki. Goldie prided himself in such attention to detail and he had to hand a large collection of Maori artefacts and cloaks with which to dress his sitters. These signifiers of 'authenticity' also provided Goldie with the opportunity to fully demonstrate his painterly skill, seen to full effect in the treatment of texture, in particular the muka korowai and its elegantly hanging thrums.

Goldie's virtuosity had been discovered and encouraged in his native Auckland through training received from Louis John Steele, before the younger painter went to Paris in 1892 to further his studies at the Académie Julian. There he studied under contemporary masters including Bougereau and Ferrier, being among their most successful students and winning several prizes. Later he continued his studies in portraiture under Sir John Guthrie in London. Returning to Auckland in 1898 Goldie joined his former teacher Steele in a new enterprise they called the French Art Academy, before setting out in his own business in 1902. From 1900 onwards he began to develop his extraordinary oeuvre of portraits of Maori. Over the next two decades, during which he enjoyed critical and financial success, Goldie became the pre-eminent artist in New Zealand and enjoyed patronage at the highest levels of New Zealand society.

Hamish Coney

Illustrated: Alister Taylor and Jan Glen, *C. F Goldie: His Life and Painting (1870–1940)*, (Marlborough, 1977), p. 262. Auckland Star, 19 September, 1993. Evening Post, 19 September, 1993. Provenance: Private collection, Lower Hutt. Private collection, Auckland.

Reference: ibid.



## Shane Cotton

98

### acrylic on canvas title inscribed, signed and dated 2010; title inscribed, signed and dated verso 1500 x 1500mm

\$45 000 - \$65 000

The all-over airbrushed cloudscapes that have formed such dramatic backdrops in Cotton's large works of recent years here reach miraculous levels of recession into deepest space, while on the surface red graffiti mingle phrases from the Lord's Prayer in English and Maori. Vampires, spectres, demonic forms lift exultant wings in defiance of the heavens, gothic, ghostly and ghastly. Horseshoes tumble, harbingers of uncertain fortune. The birds are stuffed, the tree has lost its leaves. A wild phantasmagoria, European, lurid and bloody, is visited to haunt and cast its darkling shadow over the world of light, Te Ao Marama.

In few, if any, other works among his oeuvre, has Cotton's linear genius been brought so brilliantly, so wildly into play. The peculiar tension between fine, linear surface motifs, and illusions of deep space, has been a remarkable feature of Cotton's practice from the get-go. But here the tension is drawn so exquisitely tightly, that the effect is almost vertigoinducing – extending, expanding in all directions and tearing through multiple dimensions of space and time. Hum is perhaps the greatest evocation in all of Cotton's conjurings, of his profound awareness of the multi-dimensional implications of that fundamental clash of world-views, Maori and European, which forms the Alpha point of origin for our modern sense of Aotearoa New Zealand – geospatial, sociopolitical, psycho-spiritual.

Yet riotous humour abounds across all compass points. Cheeky, demonic, maniacal, and also deeply empathetic to the full palette of human emotions cut loose and thrust unwittingly into uncharted territories. Distance looks our way, and cackles. The sly master's lucid grasp of every nuance of Euro-Gothic shtick traces an unnerving trail of humour through tortuous territories, dessicatingly dry to bloatedly burlesque, without ever losing that uncanny knack he has for bringing the exact linear accent of his cultural targets into sharpest focus. That vampire for instance – if that's not the most Nosferatu-looking bat l ever saw, I'll eat my hat! That gilded cage – is that not a Rolls Royce radiator grille, that cunningest of capitalist emblems, lapidary in its crushing dismissal of the non-linear world, transforming the grandiose orders of stone palaces into seductive lines of glittering gilt steel? And, in stark contrast, the pathetic poignancy of the passive passerines, those sparrow species, endemic and exotic, that seem so dear to Cotton's heart. Let us be, they silently sing, give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, for we are the meek, and we are disinherited.

Alongside the more obvious manifestations of Cotton's virtuosity, is the incredible density of association he manages to pack into his images, without destroying those breath-taking illusions of space. Without wanting to indulge gratuitously in superlatives, one really has to look back to Renaissance Europe, or, for that matter pre-European, classical Maori carvings such as the Patetonga Lintel in the Auckland Museum collection, to find such wonderful examples of simultaneously compressed and expanding ranges of mythological allusion, woven into individual works. *Hum* has this quality in spades.

While he is a painter that is not shy of confronting the subject of death in both concrete and metaphysical terms, Cotton also offers hope – one is reminded by the title, *Hum*, that Kurt Vonnegut's extraordinary post-apocalyptic masterpiece *Slaughterhouse-Five* was inspired by the author's witnessing of the horror experienced by a New Zealand soldier, a Maori, tasked with digging the liquefied remains of civilians from a subterranean shelter after the Allied bombing of Dresden. The narrator of *Slaughterhouse-Five* experiences a sort of reincarnation – the intervals between each new incarnation he experiences as 'violet light and a hum'. The world of Te Ao Marama is one of flux, and phase, and inscrutable current.

Oliver Stead

Exhibited: 'Shane Cotton: Recent Paintings', Michael Lett, Auckland, 30 June – 31 July 2010.

> Provenance: Private collection, Auckland.



## Peter Robinson

99

96.875% acrylic, oilstick and bitumen on canvas title inscribed 1800 x 2400mm

Provenance: Private collection, South Island.

\$120 000 - \$160 000

Peter Robinson's 96.875% is a deliberately raw painting. Produced in acrylic and bitumen with oil stick scrawled overtop, the painting utilises a palette of red, white and black which was deployed often in Robinson's earlycareer paintings. The colours are immediately recognisable as reminiscent of tukutuku panels in wharenui and traditional Maori crafts. Yet Robinson's use of these colours, combined with his method of incorporating additional spiral koru into the letterforms and planes, makes them function more like quotations than the visual language of someone immersed in the practice of tohunga; that is to say the crude formal makeup of this painting is the first indicator of Robinson's complex position between people groups which he developed at length in this Percentage series.

Begun in 1993, the Percentage series called into question the artist's identity. Through a process of halving the percentage of his ethnicity with each of the five generations that separate Robinson from his great-great-great-Ngai Tahu grandfather, the artist calculated that he possesses precisely 3.125% Māori blood (with 96.875% remaining). Of course Robinson is aware that the cultural makeup of a person can never be calculated this simply. But by assigning an absurdly specific percentage of his identity to Māori, he grappled with the grey areas of possessing a mixed personal heritage. In the words of Anna Miles, Robinson was questioning the 'quantification of cultural identity.'<sup>1</sup> How many generations on from a single Māori ancestor can one still stake a claim to their iwi? When does one simply become 'Pakeha' (whether we interpret this term as being of European decent, or the ubiquitous 'other')? In the words of Robert Leonard, Robinson was acknowledging that 'today's Māori are inevitably partial, of mixed blood, whakapapa tying Māori and Pakeha together as much as distinguishing them. [The paintings] present Māori and Pakeha cultures as not pure, not distinct.'2

The visual language used within the Percentage paintings reinforces this line of thought; 'Māori' forms such as the aforementioned koru seem to arrive via Gordon Walters and Colin McCahon as much as from indigenous tradition. Robinson's work channelled fierce debates that had re-emerged around Walter's appropriation of the koru as a Pakeha artist following the controversial Headlands exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney in 1992. The introduction of numerals in Robinson's work has also been compared to McCahon's number series and the cross-like planes to McCahon's Jet Out drawings, in which airborne crosses are set to flight above beach scenes to signify the departure of the spirit after death.<sup>3</sup> Yet divorced from this context, Robinson's quotations of McCahon function like an appropriation of an appropriation of Māori beliefs for his own ends. Numbers were picked up again by Robinson later in the 1990s as he critiqued cheap land sales, and surfaced again in 2001 for his Venice Biennale work addressing binary codes.

At the time, the potency of these paintings lay in their ability to cut to the heart of the debate around New Zealand national identity, and, years on from this initial engagement with cultural appropriation and biculturalism, the lexicon developed within this body of work continues to feed Robinson's practice.

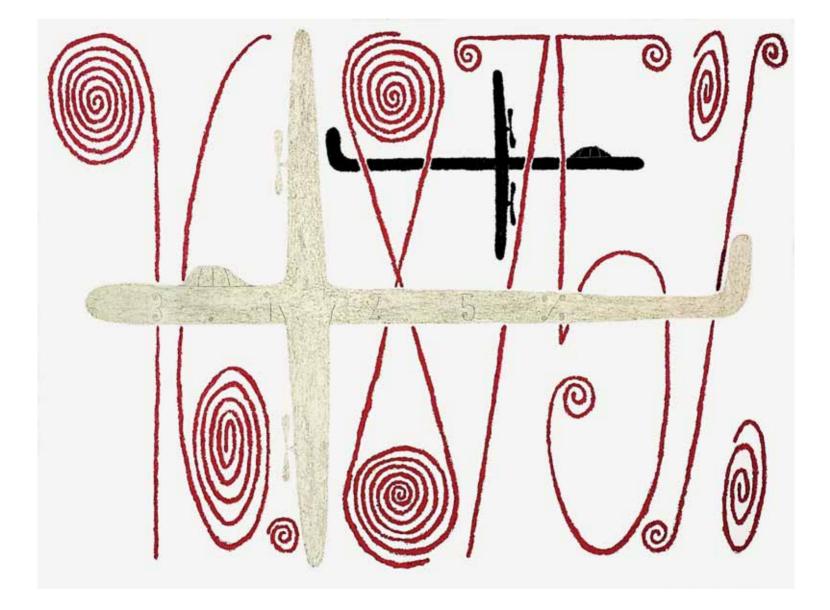
Stephen Cleland

Anna Miles, 'Au contraire', Bi-Polar; Jacqueline Fraser and Peter Robinson, 56.

 Robert Leonard, '3.125% Pure: Peter Robinson Plays the Numbers Game' Art and Text, no. 50 (1996). http://robertleonard.org/3-125-pure-peter-robinsonplays-the-numbers-game/, sourced 9/11/2015
 Ibid.

3 lt

1



# Ralph Hotere

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Black Painting No. 12 acrylic on canvas title inscribed, signed and dated 1972 verso 1220 x 1220mm

> Provenance: Private collection, Wellingtor

> > \$75 000 - \$100 000

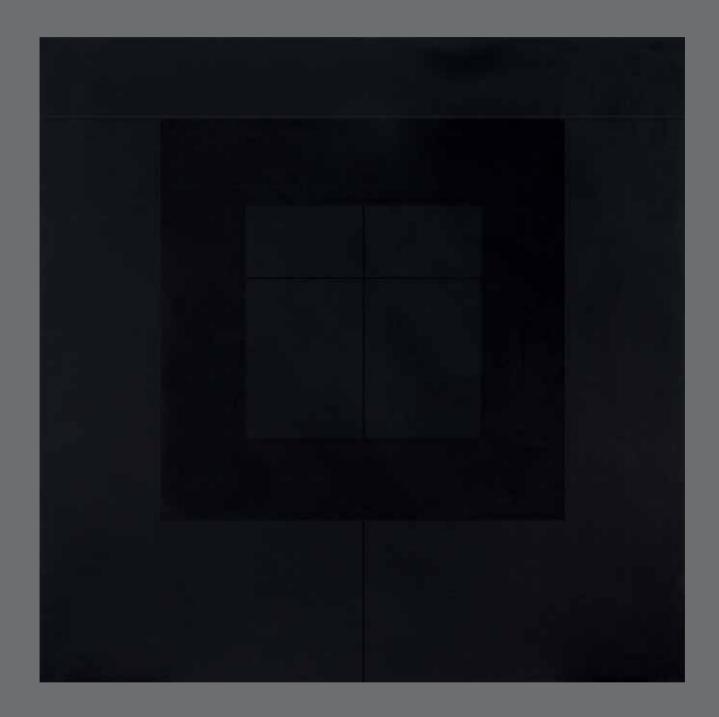
Among the most austere, reductive and challenging paintings you might encounter throughout New Zealand art history is a small body of paintings produced by Ralph Hotere n 1972. Referred to by the artist as poth the 'Port Chalmers' paintings and as the 'Black Paintings', the series numbers around twenty paintings and each share the dentical format of 1.2 metres square with each being numbered sequentially. All are abstract in the purest sense of the word, offering viewers little or nothing outside of their self-contained worlds of darkness.

No artist in this country has worked as single-mindedly and extrapolated as much from as limited and demanding a chromatic means as Ralph Hotere. As David Eggleton has observed, seemingly everything the artist touches turns to black. All of the paintings from this body of work are conceived in matte black with none of the immediately seductive allure of the near-contemporaneous brolite lacquer works. These are without doubt cerebral paintings for quiet contemplation and consideration.

Black Painting No. 12 adhere

to the 1972 status quo and offers no elixir for the time poor or impatient; rather, like the gradually shifting tides, it creeps up on you slowly but surely, washing over and through you in a gentle tide of black. The infinite darkness is disturbed only by the finest of lines, hovering over and above the inky darkness forming a perfect cross and above this a single horizontal line. Other paintings from the series feature softer forms such as a finely inscribed circle and occasionally a thin line in red which adds a potential political dimension and a strong connection to earlier paintings such as 'The Human Rights' series. However here, Hotere provides us with nothing but a world of dense black. As in the work of the artist's friend and contemporary Colin McCahon, the New Zealand landscape is never lurking too far from the paintings of Ralph Hotere, even in their most seemingly abstract and reductive iterations. If this is a landscape however it is one of the mind and the spirit. As a result, we have to look much harder to see it

**Ben Plumbly** 



## **Brent Wong**

101

#### *Tradewinds* acrylic on board title inscribed, signed and dated 1969 verso 910 x 1210mm

\$80 000 - \$120 000

The northeast and southeast trade winds meet at the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone known by sailors as the doldrums. In the doldrums when the prevailing winds are calm sailing boats can be trapped at sea for days or even weeks.

Was Brent Wong down in the doldrums when he painted *Tradewinds*? The grey edge of a stone building overlooks a landscape of barren hills. Above the hills, a cumulus cloud formation. And above the clouds, a monolithic architectural fixture dominates the listless sky. What is it? The fixture is grey as concrete, lightly tinted by clouds. It is painted adjacent to the stone building like a corbel that might have broken free from the edge and been heading downwind before becoming trapped in the doldrums when the winds were calm.

Days. Weeks. Indoors. In the late sixties a prolonged period of illness enabled Brent Wong to work full-time as a painter. He then lived in a flat above his Uncle's shop on Vivian Street in central Wellington. "The buildings of the inner city, their rooftops and architectural ornament some of them seen from his window and indeed that window itself - constitute dominant recurring motifs throughout his entire mature body of work," writes Neil Rowe in an Art New Zealand article from 1979. That maybe so, but it does little to explain the futuristic sensibility that defines Wong's unusual oeuvre

Wong is the navigator between two worlds: the hard-edged realists that brought New Zealand's empty landscape sharply into focus and the Surrealists like Magritte who used exquisite technical detail to conjure extraordinary states of mind. He was caught between a rock and a hard place; from it he struck gold. His uncanny paintings of free-floating architectural structures from the late sixties prefigured our contemporary moment of abstract modelling and 3-D printing; entire lives caught in 'the cloud.'

Wong completed Tradewinds in 1969. It was the year Apollo 11 landed on the moon. Coverage of the landing on videotape was flown from Sydney to Wellington by the RNZAF for broadcast across the country. Closer to home, the Nippon clip-ons were added to Auckland Harbour Bridge widening the lanes from four to eight. Historically, the trade winds were used by the captains of sailing ships to cross oceans, establishing new trade routes between the continents. The Escher-like structure in Wong's Tradewinds suggests an altered relationship to gravity. The sky can now be crossed like the ocean. A new trade route has opened up.

1969 was also the year of Wong's first solo show at the Rothmans Gallery in Wellington. He exhibited just twelve paintings. The impact of the show was immediate. Wong became established almost overnight as an important painter in the local scene. He was twenty-four years old. But it is these paintings of unmoored architectural forms - most completed between 1967 and 1972 – that have endured. Caught between time and tide, the unspecified cargo in Wong's *Tradewinds* continues to confound us.

Megan Dunn

Provenance: Private collection, Wellington. Purchased by the current owner from Webb's, April 4th 2006, Lot No. 71.



# Toss Woollaston

102

Lake Wakatipu and Environs from Coronet Peak Car Park oil on board signed; title inscribed and dated 1973 – '74 verso 1215 x 2730mm

\$135 000 - \$185 000

In a letter to Charles Brasch in January 1971, Toss Woollaston wrote: 'Peter McCleavey was here and has (sort of) commissioned me to paint some local landscapes four by nine feet each.' The ensuing paintings were not Woollaston's first venture into larger scale, although it was difficult to tackle really big works while he was holding down other jobs to support his family. In 'The Far-away Hills: a meditation on New Zealand landscape', his invited talk at the Auckland City Art Gallery in 1960, Woollaston recounted that



Whites Aviation photograph of Coronet Peak, Queenstown. Courtesy of Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. Ref: WA-66263-F.

he enjoyed making large works more than he had expected:

I found room for greatly increased physical pleasure in painting, in sweeping arm movements, painting as you might row, or fell trees Also, in colour, I sometimes have a sensation as though of diving, or swimming; of abandoning myself to it as to the water in order to find its buoyance and support.<sup>1</sup>

But it was only after his growing recognition as an artist in the 1960s, which allowed him to paint full-time, that Woollaston was able to work on an expansively large scale to meet McCleavey's challenge. McCleavey as his sole agent was marketing his works with considerable success, and many of the new paintings went straight into private collections. Woollaston's greater financial security meant that he and his wife Edith had been able to buy land in Riwaka near Nelson, where they decided in 1971 to build a house and a spacious studio, and this accommodated the ongoing production of large works. He was also extending the range of landscapes beyond his immediate locality, travelling to other parts of New Zealand to work on different scenes. All these factors provided the context that made possible the developments of the 1970s and Woollaston's new panoramic landscapes.

Lake Wakatipu and environs from Coronet Peak Car Park is one of these grand paintings. Woollaston had never shown a great deal of interest in the gently rounded hills that characterise many New Zealand landscapes, preferring the rougher peaks that he extolls in 'The Far-away Hills.' The landscape around Queenstown amply matched that predilection. But he avoided the conventional sublime of scenic New Zealand promoted by tourism. There are no snow-capped mountains in this painting in the Queenstown area, where Woollaston carried out a number of commissions in the early 1970s.<sup>2</sup> He wrote to Colin and Anne McCahon in May 1974 that, while he 'didn't relish going to Queenstown originally', he 'found that like all places it became beautiful on prolonged attention.' It took time for Woollaston to come to terms with a new landscape, to make it part of his

own vision, as he does so fully here.

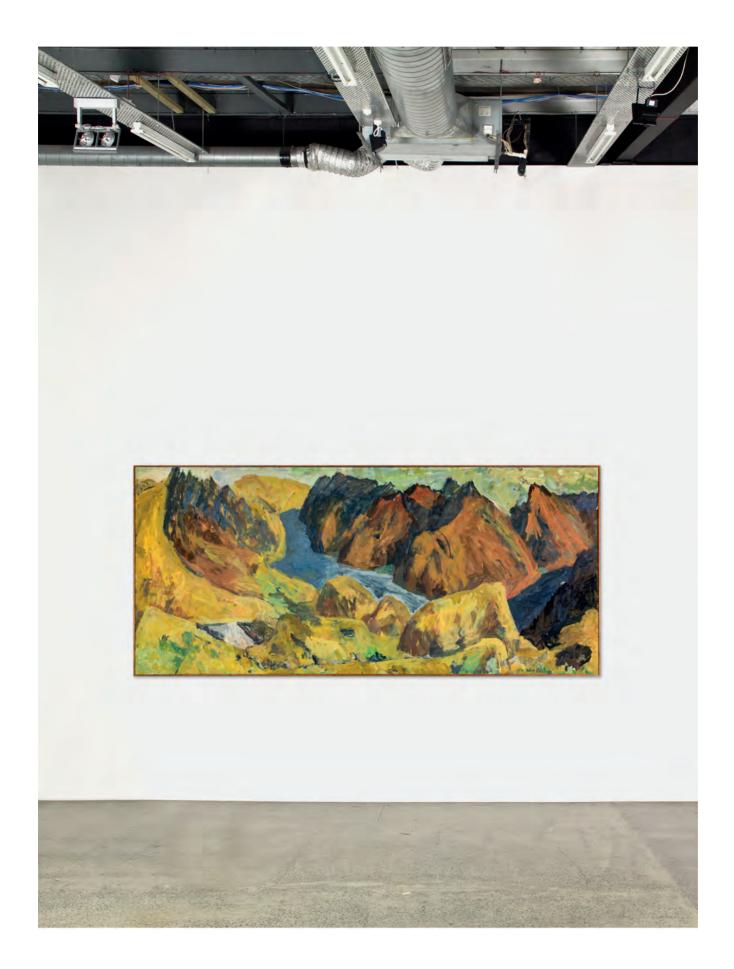
Woollaston's richly gestural brushstrokes ensure that the physicality of the paint surface in Lake Wakatipu is not negated by a sense of distance, and the jagged darkened tops of the peaks draw them forward, asserting themselves over the lighter foreground. The landscape as a whole is richly energised by the expressive paintwork that unifies it, deploying his typically warm palette of ochres and rusty reds that speak of sunsoaked soil, with touches of dull green, also picked up in the narrow band of turbulent sky. The hot colours are offset by the cooler blue tones of Lake Wakatipu, vividly glimpsed between the hills. Yet its waters do not form a singular focal point. Instead Woollaston holds our attention across the extensive panoramic composition by invigorating the entire surface of the painting. We are caught up in an empathetic response to the landscape's dynamic vitality that extends on either side of us to the peripheries of our vision.

Speaking of his aims as an artist, to quote again from 'The Far-away Hills', Woollaston said: 'For most of my life I have known a desire to take some action to harvest the rich emotions that have come to me from landscape.'<sup>3</sup> In *Lake Wakatipu* he most amply fulfilled his ambition.

Elizabeth Rankin

Provenance: Private collection, Auckland I M.T. Woollaston, The Far-away Hills: a meditation on New Zealand landscape (Auckland Gallery Associates 1962), 48.

 The first of the Queenstown commissions is mentioned to Michael Harlow in a letter of January 1972. This and other quotations from letters are taken from Jill Trevelyan (ed) *Toss Woollaston: a life in letters* (Wellington: Te Papa Press, 2004).
 Woollaston, *The Far-away Hills*, 4.





#### **Toss Woollaston**

Tower and Verandah, Greymouth oil on board title inscribed, signed and dated c. 1956 verso; original 'M. T Woollaston, 1933 – 1973', Manawatu exhibition label affixed verso 580 x 708mm

Exhibited: 'M. T Woollaston, 1933 – 1973', Manawatu Art Gallery, 1973, Cat No. 54.

Provenance: Private collection, Wellington.

\$25 000 - \$35 000



#### Ralph Hotere

Black Window: Towards Aramoana acrylic on board in colonial villa window frame title inscribed, signed and dated 'Port Chalmers '81'; title inscribed, signed and dated and inscribed *Les saintes maries de la mer, from the stables at Aurora Tce, Cat No. 7 R. K. S Art* verso 1005 x 900mm

Exhibited:

'Ten Windows: Recent Paintings & Works on Paper', R. K. S Art, Auckland, 24 November – 5 December, 1981.

Provenance: Private collection, Auckland.

\$75 000 - \$100 000

## **Bill Hammond**

105

#### *Limbo Bay* acrylic on canvas title inscribed, signed and dated 2001 760 x 1040mm

\$85 000 - \$125 000

At the turn of the millennium Bill Hammond's palette and for want of another word 'tone' changed. The previous decade had seen the artist preoccupied with resolving the pictorial and narrative possibilities that had resulted from his much documented visit to the Auckland Islands in 1989. In the remote sub- Antarctic islands Hammond encountered a near untouched 'Bird Land' ruled over by winged creatures - a window into a pre-human or indeed 'un'-human era. Hammond was greatly taken by this undefiled lost world as this quote reveals, "The Auckland Islands are like New Zealand before people got here. It's bird land."<sup>1</sup> The artist began to construct a vast community in which the 'birds' exhibited a sixth sense or pre-knowledge of the carnage to come with the arrival of the colonists and their mania for collecting specimens of all living creatures. Sir Walter Buller (1838 - 1906) was the most voracious of the hunter/gatherer/ writers in a period of carnage which saw many species of birds pushed near to or into extinction. The subsequent 'Buller' works were drenched in Hammond's signature primeval deep forest green. His anthropomorphic birdmen displayed a defensive, even menacing air. They knew what was coming. Titles such as Hokey Pokey, All Along the Heaphy Highway and Waiting for Buller located the tableau within a clearly understood New Zealand past.

From 2000 the 'postcode' of the *Limbo Bay* works became a bit hazier and harder to pin down. The subject matter, whilst still replete with winged creatures, presents as altogether more courtly, even genteel. A sense of dread is replaced with an air of calm expectation. Anticipation is still the name of the game, but in the *Limbo Bay* canvases the birdmen await transcendence as opposed to destruction. In a Chaucerian sense the 'humour' of these works is far more sanguine than the melancholic works of the 1990s.

Much has been made of Hammond's relationship to Northern European Renaissance masters such as Hieronymus Bosch and Pieter Bruegel the Elder whose works are vast essays on the agonies that await the sinner in hell, or even worse. In the *Limbo Bay* works reference points to a more pastoral, Mediterranean group of Renaissance masters are valid. The harmonious cycles of Pinturicchio (1454 – 1513), Botticelli (1445 – 1510) and the Venetian School painters at their most contemplative evoke a gauzy 'dreamtime' in which the dramatis personae are metaphors for an altogether more alluring realm, that of a time before the fall.

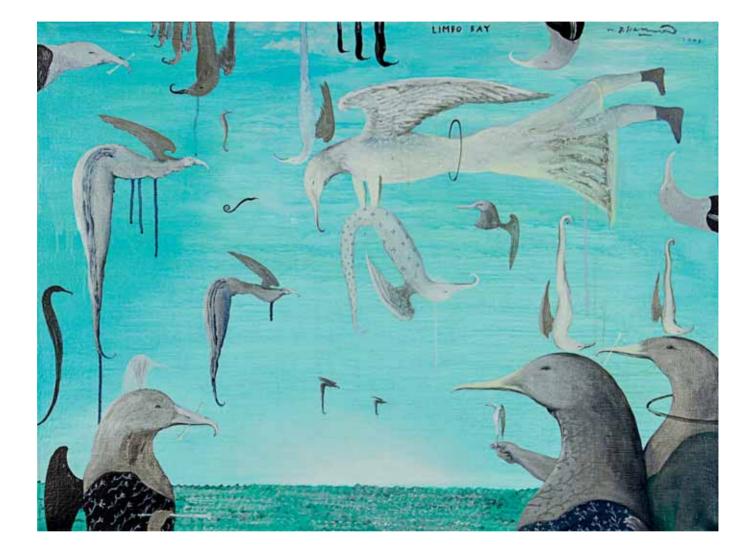
Limbo is usually understood as being on the edge of Hell, where the unbaptized or those who die in original sin, such as non-believers, are consigned. In terms of theological nomenclature it is a place that those who have not accepted the grace of God are held pending a final decision. Traditional depictions of limbo vary from a locus of interminable torture for the forever outcast to a holding space for those who will be ultimately freed by Christ as described in the Old Testament.

Hammond transports this concept to a coastal Never Never Land in which his bird figures cavort, flutter and engage in forms of enigmatic ballet as they await their return to Paradise. The rising sun on the horizon suggests such a destiny is imminent. This *Limbo Bay* is testimony to the vastness and elasticity of Hammond's universe of the imagination, one that contains heaven, hell and all the space between.

Hamish Coney

Provenance: Private collection, New South Wales, Australia.

Gregory O'Brien, Lands & Deeds, Profiles of Contemporary New Zealand Painters, (Godwit, Auckland, 1996), p.58.



# **Richard Killeen**

106

Destruction of the Circle acrylic and collage on aluminium, 50 parts title inscribed, signed and dated March 8, 1990; artist's original catalogue label affixed each piece verso 2300 x 2700mm: installation size variable

\$38 000 - \$55 000

Why would you want to destroy the circle? For Renaissance artists and architects with no corners, no weak points, and complete symmetry, the circle was a representation of perfection. Black Circle - a monumental perfect black circle floating on a flat white background - is a 1915 oil on canvas painting by the Russian Suprematist artist Kazimir Malevich. For Wassily Kandinsky, who produced paintings with titles like Circles in a Circle in the 1930s, the circle, the most elementary of forms, had symbolic, cosmic significance. 'The circle,' claimed Kandinsky, 'is the synthesis of the greatest oppositions. It combines the concentric and the eccentric in a single form and in equilibrium. Of the three primary forms, it points most clearly to the fourth dimension.' In the 1950s Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama began covering surfaces (walls, floors, canvases, and later, household objects and naked assistants) with the polka dots that would become a trademark of her work. Killeen's Australian contemporary John Nixon was constructing circles at the same time that Killeen was destroying them: see his Block Painting: Green Circle 1992 and Block Painting: White Circle 1993 (both in the Chartwell Collection). Damien Hirst began to produce his machine-made, ice-creamy series of circular spin paintings in 1992. The circle it seems is never-ending... And what about the fact that Killeen himself had used the round tondo form for many of his first local realist subjects in the mid-1960s, and in the mid-1970s had painted a number of circular lacy patterns based on Pacific motifs?

In a spatial sense, the circle states the autonomy of the realm of art. Flattened, geometricised, ordered, it is antinatural, antimimetic, antireal. It is what art looks like when it turns its back to nature. In the perfection that results from its coordinates, the circle is the means of crowding out the dimensions of the real and replacing them with the result of aesthetic decree. Insofar as its order is that of pure relationship, the circle is a way of abrogating the claims of natural objects to have an order particular to themselves. But, of course, circles do exist everywhere in nature. Killeen has always been interested in the natural world and has consistently addressed botanical and zoological subjects (note here again is his ubiquitous butterfly and frog). *Destruction of the Circle* bursts with images of leaves and plants: forms resembling buds, spores, pods, sprouting seeds, fungi, tubers, fossil shells, driftwood. These are all primal elements of the natural world – images of things on the threshold of being, on the border between material and immaterial, between articulated form and the inchoate. They are the building blocks of morphology, the forms that seem recognisable as the basis of all life, of our being before identity is fixed.

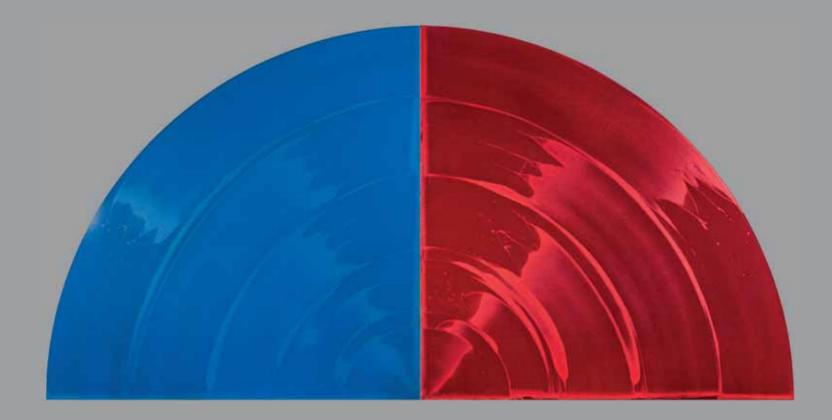
To view a Killeen cut-out like Destruction of the Circle is to see its components differently and to see them as a possibility. This is a position in favour of the openness of images as opposed to images pre-digested and signified in advance, constrained by a geometry or the container of a frame. Killeen's work is deliberately insubordinate. He opens up his images, disturbs any univocal understanding of them (they no longer belong to just one world, the world of Euclidean geometry). He is interested in the vulnerability and ambiguity of natural forms and their sexual suggestiveness. He wants to shatter their unity, to make ambiguous and to reveal the multiplicities contained in each image. The act of disengaging the image from its context, whether real or fictional, is to disengage it from a world that has been completed, or is bounded and already formed in some way, a world that is 'circled' we might say. Such decontextualisation is not a loss: wherever an image has been it carries with it every trace of a new encounter or juxtaposition. It becomes part of a living 'database' of images at work. Killeen infuses his art with unusual metaphoric power. The structure of vision, the erotics of vision, and the poetics of vision merge in a kind of secular sense of wonder. Destruction of the *Circle* is a major example of one of Richard Killeen's most important series and there is no doubt that in time he will be recognised as a transformative presence in the history of our art.

Laurence Simmons

Exhibited: 'Richard Killeen Sampler: 1967 – 1990', Sue Crockford Gallery, Auckland, 1990.

Provenance: Purchased by the current owner from Sue Crockford Gallery, Auckland, July 3, 1990.





## Gretchen Albrecht

Plume (Red) acrylic on canvas title inscribed, signed and dated 1983 1520 x 3060mm

Provenance: Purchased by the current owner from Sue Crockford Gallery, Auckland, May 31, 1994.

\$25 000 - \$35 000



## Gretchen Albrecht

Whisper acrylic on shaped canvas title inscribed, signed and dated 89/90 verso 1200 x 2400mm

Provenance: Private collection, Wellington.

\$20 000 - \$30 000



#### Tony Lane Three Stigmata oil paint, gold leaf and composition ornaments on gesso panel title inscribed, signed and dated 2000 verso 1930 x 1330mm

Provenance: Private collection, Wellington.

\$15 000 - \$25 000

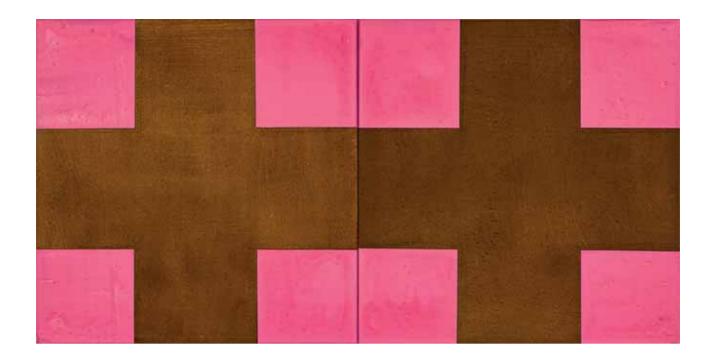


Robert Ellis

Landscape with City and Roads oil on board signed and dated '65; title inscribed verso 1220 x 1220mm

Provenance: Private collection, Hawke's Bay.

\$22 000 - \$28 000





### Stephen Bambury

Words and Sounds rust and acrylic on aluminium, diptych title inscribed, signed and dated 2003 verso 390 x 780mm: overall

Provenance: Private collection, Christchurch. Purchased by the current owner from Jonathan Smart Gallery.

\$13 000 - \$18 000

112

#### Max Gimblett

Figure of Motion – for Len Lye water-gilded gold, bole clay, polyurethane and acrylic on board title inscribed, signed and dated 2000 and inscribed For My Teacher verso 760 x 1520mm \$20 000 – \$30 000

#### Tony Lane

Dolorosso oil paint, silver and gold leaf on gesso panel title inscribed, signed and dated 1995 verso 1530 x 970mm

Provenance: Private collection, Wellington.

\$8000 - \$12 000



114

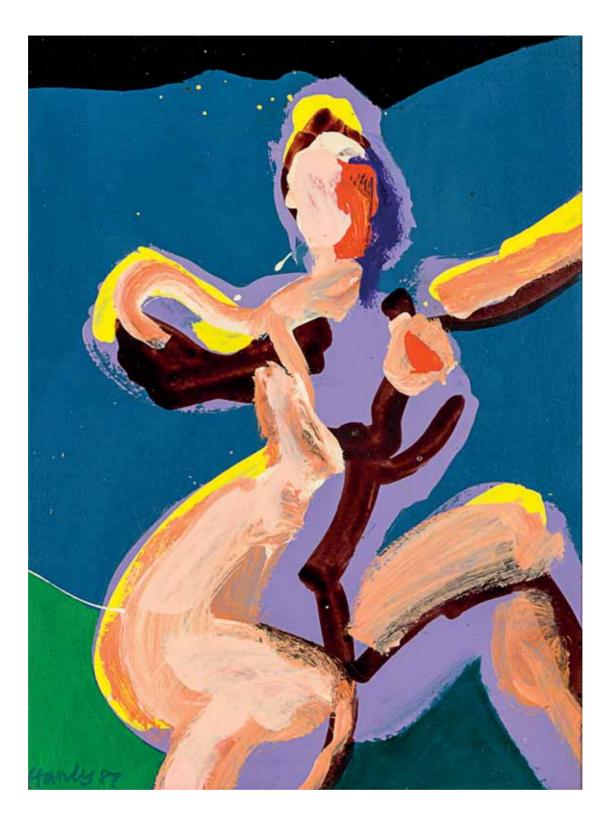
#### Tony Lane *Twenty-six Chairs* oil paint, schlagmetal, aluminium leaf and

compositional elements on gesso panel title inscribed, signed and dated 2000 verso 940 x 1360mm

Provenance: Private collection, Auckland.

\$8000 - \$14 000





#### Pat Hanly Vacation Woman

acrylic and enamel on board signed and dated '87; title inscribed, signed and dated verso 380 x 277mm

Provenance: Private collection, Auckland.

\$20 000 - \$30 000

Michael Parekowhai Neil Keller type C print, edition of 10 1200 x 980mm

Provenance: Private collection, Auckland.

\$12 000 - \$18 000



117

## Peter Siddell

Northern City oil on linen title inscribed, signed and dated 1992 verso 318 x 915mm

Provenance: Private collection, Auckland.

\$18 000 - \$26 000





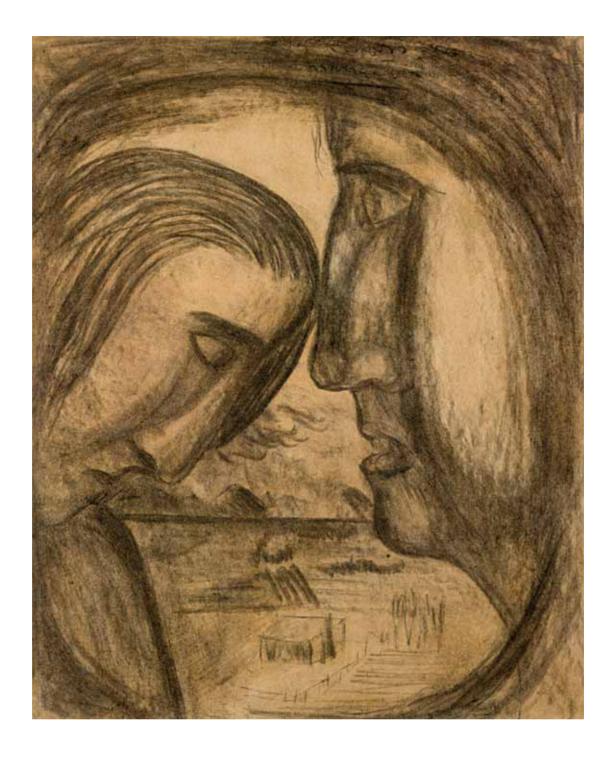
### Colin McCahon Flower watercolour and pastel on paper

signed and dated '70 575 x 446mm

Provenance: Private collection, Dunedin.

Reference: This work is not yet registered on the Colin McCahon database.

\$18 000 - \$26 000



## Colin McCahon

Annunciation charcoal on paper title inscribed, signed and dated '49 650 x 520mm

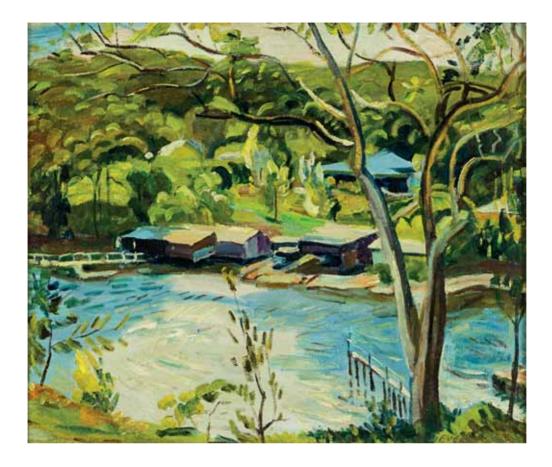
\$40 000 - \$60 000

## Exhibited:

'McCahon – Woollaston', The Gallery of Helen Hitchings, Wellington, 30 July – 5 August, 1949.
'Group Show '51', Canterbury Society of Arts Gallery, Durham St, Christchurch, 15 – 26 1951, Cat No. 62.
'McCahon "Religious" Works: 1946 – 1962', Manawatu Art Gallery, Palmerston North, 24 March – 24 April 1975, Cat. No. 37.

Reference: Colin McCahon Database (www.mccahon.co.nz) cm000511.

Provenance: Private collection, Auckland.



**Evelyn Page** Untitled – Lake View oil on board signed 260 x 310mm

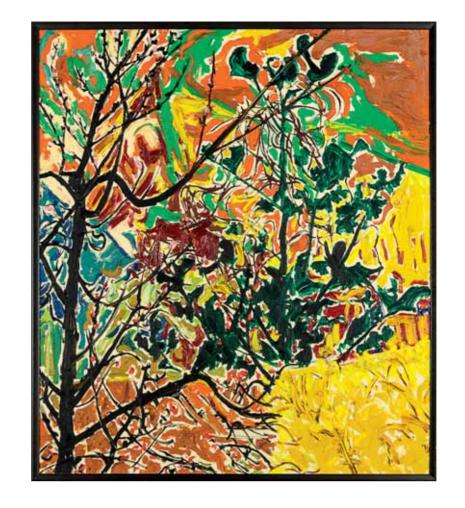
Provenance: Private collection, Hawke's Bay.

\$16 000 - \$24 000

Philip Trusttum Garden Painting oil on board signed with artist's initials P. S. T 1210 x 1055mm

Provenance: Private collection, Dunedin. Purchased by the current owner from Bosshard Galleries, Dunedin, circa 1980.

\$10 000 - \$15 000



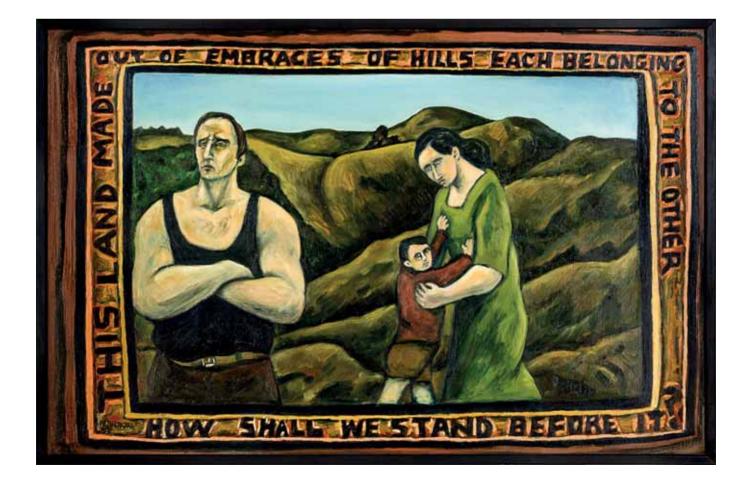
122

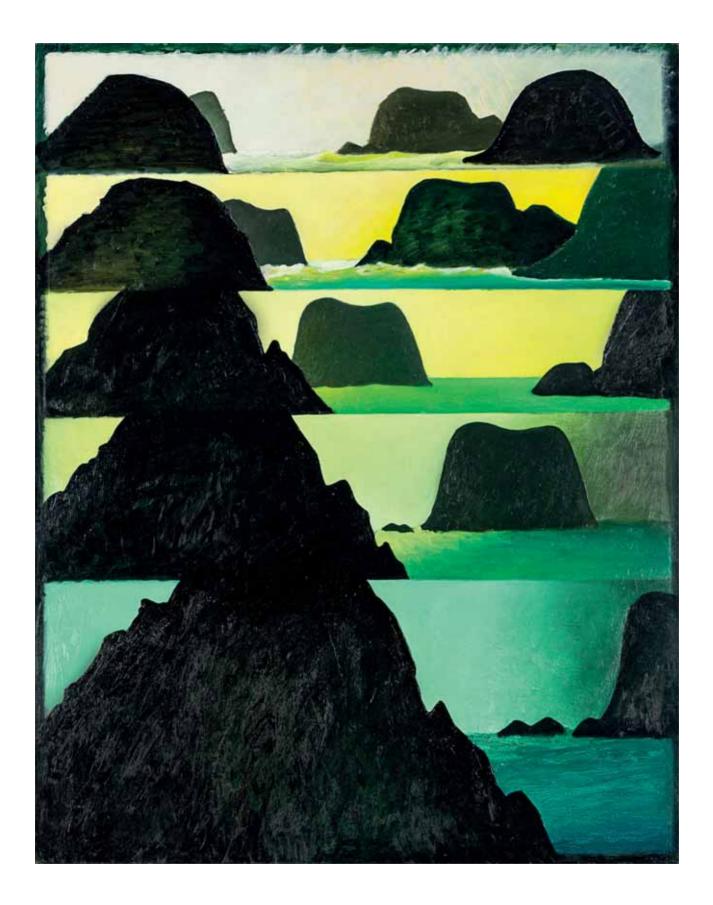
## Nigel Brown

This Land Made out of Embraces oil on board title inscribed, signed and dated 1978 verso 760 x 1180mm

Provenance: Private collection, Christchurch.

\$12 000 - \$18 000



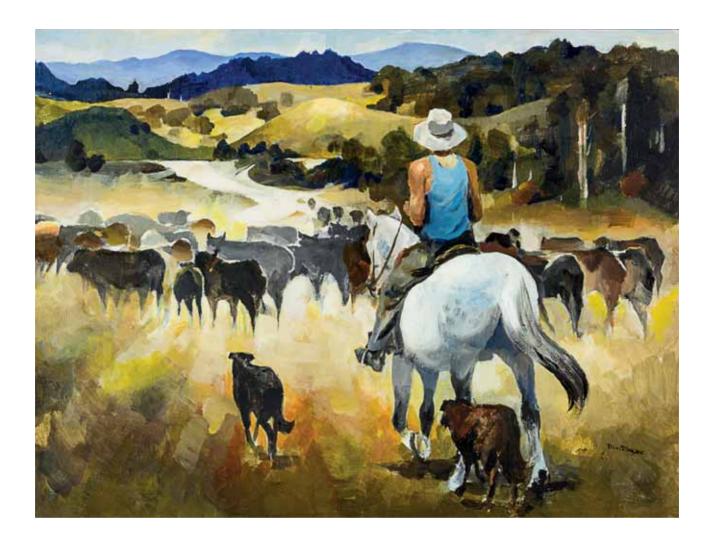


## Michael Smither

Motumahanga oil on board signed with artist's initials M. D. S and dated '85 1200 x 915mm

Provenance: Private collection, Wellington.

\$40 000 - \$55 000



## Peter McIntyre Untitled – The Drover

oil on board signed 565 x 745mm \$20 000 – \$30 000

## John Elder Moultray (1866–1922) The Ambuscade at Okehu Creek

oil on canvas signed and dated 1888; inscribed An Incident of the New Zealand War of 1866. The ambuscade at the Okehu river (Wanganui) painted from the description supplied by Sgt John Hardie (illegible) cavalry "an eyewitness" landscape sketched at the spot; original NZI label affixed verso 483 x 895mm

Provenance: Corporate collection, Auckland. Purchased McArthur's, Wellington, May 1980.

\$10 000 - \$16 000

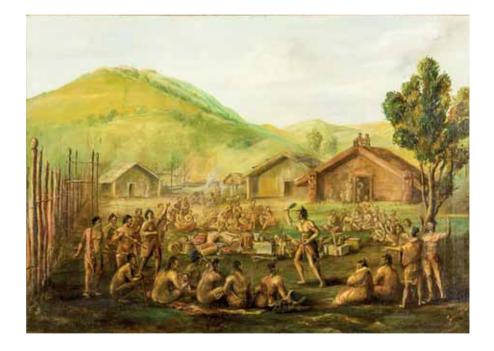


126

Thomas William Downes (1868–1938) The Sale of Whanga-Nui (Wanganui), 1840 oil on canvas title inscribed on brass plaque; original NZI label affixed verso 650 x 905mm

Provenance: Corporate collection, Auckland. Purchased at Devereaux and Culy Auction, August 1978.

\$6000 - \$9000



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This completed and signed form authorises ART+OBJECT to bid on my behalf at the above mentioned auction for the following lots up to prices indicated below. These bids are to be executed at the lowest price levels possible.

I understand that if successful I will purchase the lot or lots at or below the prices listed on this form and the listed buyers premium for this sale (15%) and GST on the buyers premium. I warrant also that I have read and understood and agree to comply with the conditions of sale as printed in the catalogue.

Auction No. 98 Important Paintings & Contemporary Art	Lot no.	Lot Description	Bid maximum in NZ dollars (for absentee bids only)
26 November 2015 at 6.00pm			

ART+OBJECT

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info@artandobject.co.nz www.artandobject.co.nz

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ART+OBJECT will advise me as soon as is practical that I am the successful bidder of the lot or lots described above. I agree to pay immediately on receipt of this advice. Payment will be by cash, cheque or bank transfer. I understand that cheques will need to be cleared before goods can be uplifted or dispatched. I will arrange for collection or dispatch of my purchases. If ART+OBJECT is instructed by me to arrange for packing and dispatch of goods I agree to pay any costs incurred by ART+OBJECT. Note: ART+OBJECT requests that these arrangements are made prior to the auction date to ensure prompt delivery processing.

Please indicate as appropriate by ticking the box:	□ PHONE BID	□ ABSENTEE BID
MR MRS MS		
FIRST NAME:	SURNAME:	
ADDRESS:		
HOME PHONE:	MOBILE:	
BUSINESS PHONE:	EMAIL:	

Signed as agreed:

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## 3.

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#### 4.

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## ART+OBJECT is an agent for

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## 7.

6

Payment: Successful bidders are required to make full payment immediately post sale – being either the day of the sale or the following day. If for any reason payment is delayed then a 20% deposit is required immediately and the balance to 100% required within 3 working days of the sale date. Payment can be made by Eftpos, bank cheque or cash. Cheques must be cleared before items are available for collection. Credit cards are not accepted.

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The following information does not form part of the conditions of sale, however buyers, particularly first time bidders are recommended to read these notes.

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Bidding at auction: Please ensure your instructions to the auctioneer are clear and easily understood. It is well to understand that during a busy sale with multiple bidders the auctioneer may not be able to see all bids at all times. It is recommended that you raise your bidding number clearly and without hesitation. If your bid is made in error or you have misunderstood the bidding level please advise the auctioneer immediately of your error - prior to the hammer falling. Please note that if you have made a bid and the hammer has fallen and you are the highest bidder you

have entered a binding contract to purchase an item at the bid price. New bidders in particular are advised to make themselves known to the sale auctioneer who will assist you with any questions about the conduct of the auction.

## Β.

Absentee bidding: ART+OBJECT welcomes absentee bids once the necessary authority has been completed and lodged with ART+OBJECT. A+O will do all it can to ensure bids are lodged on your behalf but accepts no liability for failure to carry out these bids. See the Absentee bidding form in this catalogue for information on lodging absentee bids. These are accepted up to 2 hours prior to the published auction commencement.

## C.

Telephone bids: The same conditions apply to telephone bids. It is highly preferable to bid over a landline as the vagaries of cellphone connections may result in disappointment. You will be telephoned prior to your indicated lot arising in the catalogue order. If the phone is engaged or connection impossible the sale will proceed without your bidding. At times during an auction the bidding can be frenetic so you need to be sure you give clear instructions to the person executing your bids. The auctioneer will endeavour to cater to the requirements of phone bidders but cannot wait for a phone bid so your prompt participation is requested.

### D.

New Zealand dollars: All estimates in this catalogue are in New Zealand dollars. The amount to be paid by successful bidders on the payment date is the New Zealand dollar amount stated on the purchaser invoice. Exchange rate variations are at the risk of the purchaser.

## **Artist Index**

Aberhart, Laurence 59, 60 Albrecht, Gretchen 54, 107, 108 Bambury, Stephen 49, 68, 77, 111 Bawden, Lionel 56 Berry, Manu 31 Binney, Don 96 Brown, Nigel 30, 122 Bush, Kushana 23 Cotton, Shane 43, 48, 98 Dashper, Julian 50, 70 Day, Melvin 28 De Lautour, Tony 20 Downes, Thomas William 126 Drawbridge, John 13 Dupain, Max 82 Edwards + Johann 7 Ellis, Robert 110 et al. 33 Fomison, Tony 81 Friedlander, Marti 15 Frizzell, Dick 21 George, Darryn 4 Gimblett, Max 16, 112 Goldie, Charles Frederick 97 Gossage, Star 25, 78 Greig, Jason 26 Hammond, Bill 1, 2, 67, 80, 105 Hanly, Pat 115 Henderson, Louise 58 Hotere, Ralph 66, 75, 94, 100, 104 Hughes, Sara 55 Illingworth, Michael 52, 76 Kahukiwa, Robyn 24 Killeen, Richard 72, 106 Lane, Tony 109, 113, 114 Larnach, Sarah 35 Lee, Jae Hoon 45

Macleod, Euan 27 McCahon, Colin 118, 119 McIntyre, Peter 124 McLeod, Andrew 9 Maddox, Allen 12, 79 Maughan, Karl 44 Millar, Judy 69, 73 Millwood, Adrienne 8 Moultray, John Elder 125 Mrkusich, Milan 88, 89, 90, 95 Page, Evelyn 120 Pardington, Fiona 47, 61, 62, 63 Parekowhai, Michael 38, 39, 116 Payton, Simon 32 Peryer, Peter 10, 42 Picasso, Pablo 74 Pick, Seraphine 11 Pule, John 36 Robinson, Ann 91, 92, 93 Robinson, James 3 Robinson, Peter 65, 71, 99 Schoon, Theo 57 Seymour, Ava 6, 46 Siddell, Peter 117 Smither, Michael 123 Stringer, Terry 14 Thornley, Geoff 53 Tole, Charles 51 Trusttum, Philip 121 Van Hout, Ronnie 40 Verbrugge, Renate 18 Viscoe, Warren 17 Walters, Gordon 37, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87 Webb, Ben 29 Webb, Lorraine 34 Wealleans, Rohan 41, 64 Westra, Ans & Youle, Wayne 5 Williams, Mervyn 19 Wolfe, Emily 22 Wong, Brent 101 Woollaston, Toss 102, 103



# IMPORTANT PAINTINGS & CONTEMPORARY ART