

ARTIS

G A L L E R Y

JOHN BLACKBURN
(1932 -2022)

In June 2022 we celebrated the milestone of John Blackburn's 90th birthday – and it was in October 2022 that we received the sad news of his sudden death.

Blackburn held his first exhibition in ARTIS Gallery in 2009 and since then has exhibited at ARTIS each year up until present day. During this time, he has also continued to exhibit in London at the Osborne Samuel Gallery in Mayfair.

John Blackburn spent a decade in New Zealand after serving with the Royal Air Force and met his future New Zealand wife. On their return to his native England in 1961, he was arguably the most radical painter working in Auckland. Strangely, there is not a paragraph in New Zealand art history about him – besides his inclusion as one of ten artists at the Auckland City Art Gallery in November 1959. Colin McCahon, who selected the artist for this exhibition, spotted Blackburn's work at his first solo exhibition at Auckland's short-lived Circle Gallery.

From 1961 through to 1980, when he changed his focus due to a business venture opportunity, Blackburn was an adventurous and exciting full-time painter. It was the chance discovery of some of Blackburn's works acquired in the 1960s by the renowned collector, curator and writer, Jim Ede, which led to renewed interest in the artist. After an absence of twenty-five years, Blackburn was re-launched back into the art world with a full-scale retrospective, including striking large new works. This show at Folkestone's Metropole Galleries in 2006 was followed by an exhibition at the prestigious Osborne Samuel Gallery in Mayfair, London.

1932	Born Luton, Bedfordshire, UK
1950-52	Maidenhead School of Art
1952-54	National Service Royal Air Force
1954-62	Lived in New Zealand and the Pacific Islands

- Short-listed for the Gregory Fellowship in Painting at University of Leeds
- Completed 3,400 Mile Charity Walk around coast of England, Scotland and Wales
- Has taught at Thanet School of Art and Canterbury College of Technology
- Creation of Manufacturing Company in 1979, Canterbury Bears
- Elected Fellow of The Chartered Society of Designers, 1994
- Elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts 1995

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS:

2026	ARTIS Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand
2025	ARTIS Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand
2024	<i>Reminisce</i> , ARTIS Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand
2023	<i>90 Years</i> , ARTIS Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand
2022	<i>An Unbroken Duality</i> – Blackburn & Lovell, ARTIS
2021	<i>Extended Stay</i> – ARTIS Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand

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SELECTED EXHIBITIONS – continued:

- 2020 *Parallel Reflections* - Blackburn & Fountain, ARTIS Gallery, Auckland, NZ
2019 *All Fired Up* – Blackburn & Lovell, ARTIS Gallery, Auckland, NZ
2018 *Two Modernists* – Blackburn & Panyoczki, ARTIS Gallery, Auckland, NZ
2017 *Mayfair to Muriwai*, ARTIS Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand
2016 *Intimate Works* ARTIS Gallery, Auckland, NZ
Osborne Samuel Gallery, Mayfair, London, UK
The Open Eye Gallery, Edinburgh
Ronnie Duncan Gallery, Ilkley, Yorkshire UK
2015 *Inspiration* ARTIS Gallery, Auckland, NZ
2014 *In Absentia* ARTIS Gallery, Auckland, NZ
2013 Osborne Samuel Gallery, Mayfair, London, UK
2012 *Mt Maunganui Paper Suite*, ARTIS Gallery, Auckland, NZ
2011 *In the Shadow of the Mount*, ARTIS Gallery, Auckland, NZ
2010 *The Muriwai Paintings*, ARTIS Gallery, Auckland NZ
John Blackburn: Paintings, Lemon Street Gallery, Truro, Cornwall
2009 *Back After All These Years*, ARTIS Gallery, Auckland NZ
Osborne Samuel Gallery, London
Paulnache Gallery, Gisborne NZ
2007 Metropole Gallery Folkestone
Osborne Samuel Gallery, London

PRIVATE COLLECTIONS:

Included in Private Collections in England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Finland, Switzerland, France, New Zealand, USA and Sweden.

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS:

Cambridge University: Colleges : -Kings, Magdelene, Clare, Jesus and Girton
Gonville & Caius, University of Kent: Rutherford College,
Royal College of Physicians - London
The British Embassy in Paris (on loan from Kettles Yard)
Linacre House - Oxford, Essex University, Newcastle University,
Dublin University - Kettles Yard, University of Cambridge
(permanent and loan collections) The Bank of Ireland - London