

FATU FEU’U ONZM

Feu’u is an internationally recognised Samoan/New Zealand artist. He has been pivotal in shaping the interest in contemporary Pacific art globally and nurturing a generation of Pacific artists locally, leading to his reputation as the “Father of contemporary Pacific Art”.

Feu’u grew up in the village of Poutasi in the district of Falealili, on the island of Upolu in Samoa. In 1966 he emigrated to New Zealand specifically to study art.

Feu’u has held regular exhibitions since 1983 – both nationally and internationally.

RECENT AWARDS: – for his outstanding contribution to art and his role as a leader within the Pacific arts community:-

- March 2023: Distinguished Alumni Award – Auckland University
- 2022: ICON Award by New Zealand Arts Foundation Te Tumu Toi.
- 2022: Senior Pacific Artist Award by Creative New Zealand

Works by Feu’u are included in the following public collections:

Queensland Art Gallery, Gallery of Modern Art Brisbane
Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa Wellington
Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tamaki,
Waikato Museum Te Whare Taonga o Waikato
Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu
University of Canterbury,
University of Auckland, Auckland Council, Fletcher Trust Auckland, Chartwell Trust Auckland,
Arts House Trust Auckland.

Since becoming a full-time artist in 1988, his paintings, prints, bronzes, wooden sculptures and ceramics are now held in public and private collections around the world. He was the first artist of Pacific heritage awarded the James Wallace Art Award (1995) and the New Zealand Order of Merit for his achievements in art (2001).

Feu’u explores motifs of Pacific and particularly his Samoan culture, but with a strong modernist interpretation. His love of Picasso and the early 20th century modernists is also evident in his distinctive style – which sees him recognised as one of the leading New Zealand Pacific artists.

Over the past fifteen years, his works have expressed the rebuilding, physically and spiritually, of the tsunami which struck Samoa in 2009 – particularly the Poutasi area, where Feu’u holds chiefly status. His thoughts on life are “woven” into his canvases, with the constant use of siapo (tapa or bark cloth) designs that refer to his ancestry and heritage.

As in 2020, Feu’u was again invited in 2022 through ARTIS Gallery, to join forces with the international company, SPECSAVERS, as Patron for the Fred Hollows Foundation New Zealand.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS AT ARTIS:

2024	<i>VAI MANINO</i>
2022	<i>ABUNDANCE</i>
2020	<i>OLA</i>
2019	<i>RECONCILIATION</i>
2018	<i>OLE MALAGA</i>

AWARDS:

2023	Distinguished Alumni Award – Auckland University
2022	ICON - The Arts Foundation Te Tumu Toi
2022	SenioPacific Artist Award – Creative New Zealand – Arts Pasifika Award
2001	New Zealand Order of Merit – For Services to Art in 2001
1996	Winner of the Pacific Island Artists Award
1996	Artist in Residence MacMillan Brown Centre for Pacific Studies at the University of Canterbury.
1995	Winner of the James Wallace Art Award
1992	Winner of the Gordon Harris printmaking Award