

ARTIS

G A L L E R Y

JOSH OLLEY

b. 1972

Josh Olley was born in New Plymouth and currently works full-time from his studio in Luggate - a small town situated between Wanaka and Cromwell, in Otago, New Zealand.

Olley taught himself to carve in 1997 while he was living in Wanaka (firstly in bone) with a strong focus on the smallest of details and the overall finish to his pieces. As a result, he was soon selling through Te Papa Tongarewa Wellington, Auckland War Memorial Museum, Statements Gallery in Napier and several other New Zealand galleries.

Olley's passion for larger stone sculpture developed naturally as his abilities evolved. He discovered the wonderful quality of the stone that was surrounding him in the lower South Island area and over the past years his work has transitioned mainly into large works. Argillite stone he particularly favours due to its hard and durable quality - and its ability to hold a very fine edge and detail.

During 2025, Olley participated in *Sculpture in the Gardens*. Auckland Botanic Gardens. His work, *Hand Down*, was purchased by the Friends of the Garden – their largest ever acquisition – and will remain there on permanent display. *Hand Down* also received the 'Peoples' Choice Award', during the event.

The first stage of my sculpture is discovering the form that fits the stone, so the potential of each unique stone remains in the finished piece. This is vital to process and can take years to find. The whole process can take many months of full-time dedicated work, however the satisfaction and strong connection to each piece develops as the form begins to take shape." Olley 2025

ARTIS Gallery has represented Josh Olley since 2019.

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS:

- 2026:** **Aotearoa Art Fair – Sculpture Trail**
 Blood from Stone, Argillite, 166 x 70 x 60 cm
- 2025 *Sculpture in the Gardens*, Auckland Botanic Gardens
 Work titled '*Hand Down*' won Peoples' Choice Award
 Friends of the Garden purchased *Hand Down* – their largest priced acquisition.
- 2024 AOTEAROA ART FAIR, Auckland – ARTIS Gallery
- 2023 AOTEAROA ART FAIR, Auckland – ARTIS Gallery
- 2022 AUCKLAND ART FAIR, Auckland – ARTIS Gallery
- 2020 Virtual Auckland Art Fair - ARTIS Gallery, Auckland
 '*Earls street Journal*' Milford Gallery, Queenstown
- 2019 Joined ARTIS Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand, as a represented artist
 Selected and exhibited as an Art Gold Finalist, Alexandra

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- 2018 Selected and exhibited large outdoor piece in *NZ Sculpture on Shore*, Auckland.
Won *Peoples' Choice Award* - sculpture sold.
- 2017 Selected and exhibited as Art Gold Award finalist, Alexandra.
Selected and exhibited at *Sculpture on the Peninsula*, Christchurch.
- 2016 Participated and received top selling price at Te Kupenga International Stone Sculpting Symposium
Solo exhibition at Forrester Gallery, Oamaru
Selected and exhibited large outdoor piece at '*NZ Sculpture Onshore*', Auckland - work sold.
- 2015 Group exhibition: '*This is the Day*' NKB Gallery, Auckland.
Selected as an Arts Gold Award Finalist
Selected and exhibited in '*Sculpture on the Peninsula*', Christchurch
Invited artist at Manapouri Labour Weekend Exhibition.
Group exhibition; 'Three D' Gallery 33, Queenstown with Bing Dawe and Llew Summers.
- 2014 Solo exhibition, '*Fruit of the Faults*' at Aigantighe Art Gallery - Timaru Public Art Gallery.
Received Arts Grant from Creative New Zealand
Selected and exhibited at '*NZ Sculpture on Shore*' Indoor Gallery, Auckland.
- 2008 Group exhibition, '*Object in Mind*' Gallery 33, Queenstown - Emma Camden, Bing Dawe, Paul Dibble, Don Driver, David Murray, Veronika Maser, John Parker and Llew Summers.