

ARTIS

G A L L E R Y

MICHAEL SMITHER (CNZM)
(b. 1939)

Michael Smither is one of New Zealand's leading contemporary artists – and since the sixties, his name and images have appeared in every major NZ art publication. He is acknowledged as one of several pivotal painters who emerged in the 1960s, to lead contemporary New Zealand art in new directions.

Michael Smither was born in Taranaki, New Plymouth, in 1939. He attended Elam School of Fine Art, Auckland University, from 1959 – 60. During this period, he was taught by Lois White, Robert Ellis and John Weeks. Throughout his prolific career Smither has explored diverse creative avenues, such as painting, printmaking, sculpture and music.

Smither made his name with his intimate observations of his local environments, family and friends, and objects of the everyday, transforming them into works of art that have come to sit alongside our notion of identity as New Zealanders.

Smither's paintings are held in the permanent collections of: Auckland City Art Gallery, Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington, McDougal Art Gallery Christchurch and Govett-Brewster Art Gallery in New Plymouth.

Over the past five decades Smither has constantly explored new ideas and themes connected with his own life. He is also a talented musician and composer and during the 1970s and 1980s became fascinated by the link with art and music. Smither developed his own 'Harmonic Chart' in 1982 and continued to use this as a reference for his paintings and sculptures - many works can be played as a musical score - translating colour into sound. A selection of Smither's works relating to his Harmonic Series (from the 1980s through until the end of 2015) was presented at ARTIS Gallery as a solo exhibition, titled *SONG*, in 2024.

In 2004 Smither was awarded the CNZM (Companion to the New Zealand Order of Merit) for Services to Art.

Smither has been represented at ARTIS Gallery since 2005.

ACADEMIC HISTORY:

1959 - 1960 Elam School of Fine Arts, University of Auckland

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS:

2024 *SONG*, ARTIS Gallery, Auckland, NZ
2021 *Here and Now*, ARTIS Gallery, Auckland, NZ

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SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS: (continued)

- 2015 *Screenprints Sculptures Drawings Paintings*
ARTIS Gallery & Jonathan Grant Gallery, Auckland, NZ
- 2013 *Immobile*, ARTIS Gallery, Auckland, NZ
- 2011 *Harmonic Assembly*, ARTIS Gallery, Auckland, NZ, NZ
- 2008 *The Colours of 12 Sounds*, ARTIS Gallery, Auckland, NZ
- 2005 The Manifesto Sessions, ARTIS Gallery, Auckland, NZ
- 2005 *The Wonder Years*, Auckland City Art Gallery
- 2004 *Domestic Bliss*, John Leech Gallery, Auckland
- 2003 *Singing Shells*, Kina Gallery, New Plymouth
Michael Smither, Upstairs Gallery, Whitianga
- 2002 *Old Affairs - New Paintings*, Yvonne Fine Arts, Christchurch
- 2001 *Clouds*, Janne Land Gallery, Wellington
Something Else, Upstairs Gallery, Whitianga
- 2000 *Stations of the Cross*, Diversion Gallery, Marlborough
- 1999 Upstairs Gallery, Whitianga
- 1998 *From Hammerheads*, Janne land Gallery, Wellington
- 1997 Summer Festival - Michael Smither, Upstairs Gallery, Whitianga
- 1996 *Still Life*, Canterbury Gallery, Christchurch
Stones in Blue Bottle, Canterbury Gallery, Christchurch
TART Gallery, New Plymouth
- 1995 Michael Smither, Janne Land Gallery, Wellington
Paintings and Drawings, John Leech Gallery, Auckland
- 1994 *Recycled Rightbrain City 1994*, Janne Land Gallery, Wellington
Dark Night of the Teapot, John Leech Gallery, Auckland
Still Life, Canterbury Art Gallery, Christchurch
- 1993 Paintings, John Leech Gallery, Auckland
- 1992 *Still Life*, Canterbury Art Gallery, Christchurch
The Northland Series, John Leech Gallery, Auckland
- 1991 Silk Screen Prints, Canterbury Art Gallery, Christchurch
Drawings and Oil Sketches from Katikara, Janne Land Gallery, Wellington
Tai-Chi Clouds, John Leech Gallery, Auckland
- 1990 Drawings, Gallery 69, Hawera
- 1989 Silk Screen Prints, Canterbury Gallery, Christchurch
Clouds, Janne Land Gallery, Wellington
Cloud Series, John Leech Gallery, Auckland
- 1988 Recent Paintings, Janne Land Gallery, Wellington
- 1987 Paintings, John Leech Gallery, Auckland
- 1986 Motumahanga Paintings 1986, Janne Land Gallery, Wellington
- 1985 Huatoki Series, John Leech Gallery, Auckland
- 1984 Michael Smither - An Introduction, Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth
End of Time's Chimes, Christchurch Festival
Taranaki Graph - Recent Paintings, Janne Land Gallery, Wellington
Paintings from Back Beach, John Leech Gallery, Auckland

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SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS: (continued)

- 1983 Motumahanga, John Leech Gallery, Auckland
Works on Paper, 1976 - 1982, Peter McLeavey Gallery, Wellington
- 1982 Harmonic Images, John Leech Gallery, Auckland
Back Beach Time, Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth
- 1981 Rocks Revisited and Political Statements, John Leech Gallery, Auckland
- 1980 Polyphonic Chords, Dowse Art Gallery, Lower Hutt
Taranaki Panels, John Leech Gallery, Auckland
Studio Gallery, Hamilton
Peter McLeavey Gallery, Wellington
- 1979 Drawings in Retrospect, Display Art Gallery, Rotorua
Hapuka Heads, John Leech Gallery, Auckland
Paintings for the Revolution, Denis Cohn Gallery, Auckland
- 1978 Rotorua City Art Gallery
Retrospective Drawings 1964 - 1977, Aquarius Fine Arts Ltd., Hamilton
Peter McLeavey Gallery, Wellington
Retrospective Exhibition of Drawing, Pofflat Gallery, Thames
- 1977 You, Me, Us, Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth
Inaugural Exhibition, Rotorua City Art Gallery
Peter McLeavey Gallery, Wellington
- 1976 Recent Paintings, Peter Webb Gallery, Auckland
Peter McLeavey Gallery, Wellington
Brooke/Gifford Gallery, Christchurch
- 1975 Waikato Art Museum, Hamilton
Peter McLeavey Gallery, Wellington
John Leech Gallery, Auckland
- 1974 Watercolours, Barry Lett Galleries, Auckland
Back Beach Series, John Leech Gallery, Auckland
Works on Paper 1959 - 1974, Peter McLeavey Gallery, Wellington
- 1973 Domestic Paintings, Govett-Brewster Gallery, New Plymouth
John Leech Gallery, Auckland
Domestic Paintings, Manawatu Art Gallery, Palmerston North
Domestic Paintings 1966 - 1973, Peter McLeavey Gallery, Wellington
- 1972 Victoria University Library, Wellington
Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth
Watercolours, Peter McLeavey Gallery, Wellington
Dowse Art Gallery, Lower Hutt
- 1971 CSA Gallery, Christchurch
John Leech Gallery, Auckland
Peter McLeavey Gallery, Wellington
Dawsons Gallery, Dunedin

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SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS: (continued)

- 1970 Peter McLeavey Gallery, Wellington
Dawsons Gallery, Dunedin
- 1969 Dolphins and Lovers, Barry Lett Galleries, Auckland
Peter McLeavey Gallery, Wellington
Painters and Drawings, CSA Gallery, Christchurch
Dawsons Gallery, Dunedin
- 1968 Religious Paintings and Drawings, Barry Lett Galleries, Auckland
John Leech Gallery, Auckland
Argus Gallery, Melbourne
Religious Paintings, Palmerston North Art Gallery
- 1966 Paintings, Argus Gallery, Melbourne
Hamilton Art Gallery
- 1965 Collection of Sketches and Lino-Cuts, Giotto Art Gallery, Auckland
John Leech Gallery, Auckland
Taranaki Museum, New Plymouth
- 1964 Artides Art Gallery, Wellington
Taranaki Museum, New Plymouth
- 1963 John Leech Gallery, Auckland
Taranaki Museum, New Plymouth

SELECTED COLLECTIONS:

Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington
Auckland City Art Gallery Toi o Tamaki
Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth
The Dowse, Lower Hutt
Victoria University of Wellington Art Collection
University of Auckland Art Collection
Wallace Arts Trust, Auckland
Waikato Museum of Art and History, Hamilton
Sarjeant Gallery Te Whare o Rehua, Whanganui
Te Manawa, Palmerston North
Alex Baird Collection, College House, Christchurch
Dunedin Public Art Gallery
Hocken Library Uare Taoka o Hakena, University of Otago

PUBLICATION:

- 2004 MICHAEL SMITHER PAINTER by Trish Gribben. Signed & dated by Michael Smither.
Published by Ron Sang, Auckland, New Zealand.