

ARTIS

G A L L E R Y

LLEW SUMMERS (1947 - 2019)

Llew Summers, who was based in Christchurch, is known for his distinctive sculptures of the human form. His monumental sculptures in bronze, concrete, marble and stone are highly visible in public spaces throughout New Zealand.

Since his death in 2019, ARTIS has continued to represent Summers – with available editions that have been released.

Self-taught, he began exhibiting in 1971 and over his career, held over fifty solo exhibitions through New Zealand. His work is held in corporate and public collections within New Zealand - and by private collectors in New Zealand, Australia, Germany, USA, Switzerland, Greece, Sweden, Finland and UK.

Summers won several Awards – including the *BNZ Art Award* and the *BP Art Award* during the 1980's and the *Arts Excellence Award* (Community Trust Christchurch) in 1997. He always contributed beyond his art in many ways – such as offering residencies for emerging artists at his studio and donating his works for special causes,

Summers' large bronze work, *'Butterfly'*, was purchased by Auckland Botanical Gardens as a permanent placement in 2007. His figures have a remarkable sense of lightness, movement and harmony, despite their size.

The book titled *'Llew Summers: Body and Soul'* by John Newton, was published in 2020. This book covers the work and life of one of New Zealand's most recognisable sculptors - a man of great warmth and astonishing vitality, whose works are daring, sensual and provocative.

From the early 2000s, following his first trip to Europe, religious imagery entered Summers' work in ways that extended both his visual and thematic range – introducing a more overtly spiritual element. His later career features depictions of Christ, angelic winged figures and large works in bronze.

“What's important to me is to get a balance between the physical and the spiritual in life. We're given a soul and we're given a body. Sculpture provides a nice balance, because works can be made which are meaningful, but they require your physical body to produce them. Rather than just being clever or smart, the work must have soul.” Llew Summers 2017

Summers has been represented in ARTIS Gallery since 2012 and has participated in the *'Aotearoa Art Fair'* and numerous *Selection Shows* at ARTIS over the past fourteen years.