

MERVYN WILLIAMS

b. 1940 New Zealand

Although best known as a painter, throughout his distinguished career Mervyn Williams' artistic practice has also encompassed design, printmaking and sculpture.

Williams' paintings are concerned with perception. The intrigue of the illusion in the works cannot be deciphered in reproduction. One must stand in front of the artworks themselves to understand the mastery of paintwork and chiaroscuro that trick the eye into seeing flat surfaces as low relief. When confronted with his painting, the initial assumption is of a textured surface, thick paint built up to form ridges, bubbles, buttons, creases. On closer inspection, the three-dimensional qualities are revealed as intricacies of paintwork which belie the flat surface of the canvas. The moment of uncertainty prompts a distinct desire to touch the painting to affirm its true nature.

ACADEMIC:

1957 – 58 Elam School of Fine Arts, University of Auckland, New Zealand

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS:

- 2020 *UPDATE 2020* ARTIS Gallery, Auckland
- 2015 Façade, ARTIS Gallery, Auckland
- 2015 *SURVEY EXHIBITION* Gus Fisher Gallery – 50 years of Mervyn Williams
Curated by Dr Edward Hanfling
It was at this Survey Show that Ron Sang Publications launched the book -
'Mervyn Williams: from modernism to the digital age' by Dr Edward Hanfling.
- 2013 *Colour Corrected*, ARTIS Gallery, Auckland
- 2010 *Mervyn Williams: 20 Years of Painted Illusion*, ARTIS Gallery, Auckland
- 2008 *Round and Round*, ARTIS Gallery, Auckland
- 2007 *In the Round*, Janne Land Art Gallery, Wellington
- 2006 Recent Paintings, Judith Anderson Gallery, Hawke's Bay
- 2005 Selected Works, Judith Anderson Gallery, Hawkes Bay
- 2004 Selected Paintings, Janne Land Art Gallery, Wellington
- 2003 *Southern Oscillation*, Milford Galleries, Dunedin
- 2002 *Quintessence*, Michael Carr, Sydney

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS (Continued):

- 2001 *Quintessence*, Gow Langsford Gallery, Auckland
1999 *In the Nature of Things*, Gow Langsford Gallery, Auckland
In the Nature of Things, @ SPAN Gallery, Melbourne
1997 In the Round: Recent Paintings, Gow Langsford Gallery, Auckland
1995 *Exposures: New Paintings*, Gow Langsford Gallery, Auckland
1993 New Work, Brooker Gallery, Wellington
Recent Painting, Gow Langsford Gallery, Auckland
1991-92 *Between Darkness and Light*, Gow Langsford Gallery, Auckland
1989 Wood Works, Gow Langsford Gallery, Auckland
In Different Light, Portfolio Gallery, Auckland
Works on Paper, Manawatu Art Gallery, Palmerston North
Recent Paintings, Brooker Gallery, Wellington
Points of Departure, Sargeant Gallery, Wanganui
1988 Works in Progress, Sargeant Gallery, Wanganui
1987 Recent Paintings, Gow Langsford Gallery, Auckland
Recent Gouaches, Portfolio Gallery, Auckland
1986 Recent Paintings, Louise Beale Gallery, Wellington
1984 Recent Paintings, Louise Beale Gallery, Wellington
Recent Paintings, New Vision Gallery, Auckland
1983 Twelve Gouaches, New Vision Gallery, Auckland
1982 Recent Paintings, Louise Beale Gallery, Wellington
1981 Recent Painting, RKS Art, Auckland
1980 Recent Paintings, Elva Bett Gallery, Wellington
Recent Paintings, Barry Lett Galleries, Auckland
Recent Paintings, New Vision Gallery, Auckland
1979 Recent Paintings, Barry Lett Galleries, Auckland
1975 Paintings and Drawings, Barry Lett Galleries, Auckland

AWARDS:

- 1988 Artist in Residence, Sarjeant Gallery, Wanganui
1981 First Prize, Tokoroa Painting Award
1969 NZ Print Council Samarkand Award
1966 First Prize (Prints), Hay's Art Award

COLLECTIONS AND COMMISSIONS:

New Zealand Embassy, Washington DC
New Zealand Embassy, Consulate General New York
Private Collections USA, Canada, Europe, UK, Japan, Australia and New Zealand
All major Public Collections in New Zealand

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'Mervyn Williams: from modernism to the digital age' by Dr Edward Hanfling. Published by Ron Sang Publications, Auckland, New Zealand.