

ARTIS

G A L L E R Y

DON DRIVER
b. 1930 – 2011

Driver was one of New Zealand's most senior and respected artists. His works are an important part of New Zealand's major public and private collections. Driver was always associated with New Plymouth. He was born in 1930 in Hastings and moved to New Plymouth as a young boy.

From 1969 – 1992, he worked at New Plymouth's Govett-Brewster Art Gallery and it was during the 1960's that he began making assemblages by collaging found materials.

Largely self-taught, Don Driver was an active member of New Zealand's artistic community for many years. Driver had his first solo exhibition in 1963 and exhibited consistently, with a major retrospective of his work touring New Zealand in 1999-2001. He held solo exhibitions and was collected by all the major New Zealand public galleries.

Driver was a master of assemblage - the art of juxtaposing objects in an aesthetically resonant manner. His work ranges from immaculate bands of coloured canvas, plastic or stainless steel layered together like flags (done in the 1960s), through to rough works made from fertiliser sacks and rusty tools.

Sculpture and paintings merge: every element is considered, handled and adjusted until they are combined in a single piece of art. Using the techniques of synthetic cubism and his knowledge of colour theory, Driver overlapped and superimposed vinyl and fabrics, contrasting shapes and textures to make large scale collages.

Driver's works are full of humour and wit, visual punts and jokes. They also tell stories that the found components suggest. For example, his brightly coloured second-hand clothing suggests absent bodies, as well as abstract colour in a formal arrangement.

The throwaway nature of industrial society became the rich field for his play with materials, textures, colours and themes.

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS:

2013	<i>Don Driver, Works from his Studio</i> , ARTIS Gallery, Auckland, NZ
2000	<i>Symbols and Signs</i> , ARTIS Gallery, Auckland, NZ
1999	<i>Ways with Collage</i> , ArNZtscape, Palmerston Nth
1999/2001	<i>With Spirit</i> , retrospective travelling New Zealand
1998	<i>Faces of Don Driver</i> , One Eye Gallery, Paekakariki
1997	<i>Faces of Don Driver</i> , Information Centre, New Plymouth
1996	<i>Circular Planes</i> , Lopdell House, Auckland
1995	<i>Circular Planes</i> , Robert McDougall Gallery, Christchurch Selection, Milford House, Dunedin
1996	<i>Circular Planes</i> , Lopdell House, Auckland
1995	<i>Circular Planes</i> , Robert McDougall Gallery, Christchurch Selection, Milford House, Dunedin

ARTIS

G A L L E R Y

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS – continued:

- 1994 *Wall Sculpture, Hangings and Collages*, Dick Bett Gallery, Hobart, Australia
Works on Paper, Collages from the Warriors Series, Warwick Brown Gallery, Auckland
- 1993 *The Last Ten Years and More*, New Plymouth
Don Driver in the Round, Sarjeant Gallery, Wanganui
From the Last Ten Years, Dowse Gallery, Lower Hutt
- 1992 *A Decade of Assemblage*, Gow Langsford Gallery, Auckland
Selections from a decade of Assemblage, Gow Langsford Gallery, Wellington
- 1991 *Survey*, Bath House, Rotorua
Warriors, Waiariki Polytechnic, Rotorua
- 1990 *Print Show*, New Plymouth
Wall Hangings and Collages, RKS Art Gallery, Auckland
- 1989 *Warriors*, Manawatu Art Gallery, Palmerston Nth
Four Years On, Dowse Art Museum, Lower Hutt
- 1988 *Fifteen Years*, Centre for Contemporary Art, Hamilton
Wall Hangings and Collages, RKS Art Gallery, Auckland
- 1987 *New Collages*, Taranaki Museum, New Plymouth
- 1986 *Driver Works from the Collection*, National Gallery, Wellington
- 1985 *Skin Pieces*, RKS Art Gallery, Auckland
Collectors Pieces, Janne Land Gallery, Wellington
Recent Work, Dowse Art Museum, Lower Hutt
- 1984 *Don Driver/Philip Trusttun*, Sarjeant Gallery, Wanganui
Hangings with Tools, Manawatu Art Gallery, Palmerston Nth
Skin Pieces, McDougall Art Gallery, Christchurch
- 1982 *Pocket and Tools*, RKS Art Gallery, Auckland
Don Driver Sculpture 1978 – 1981, Centre Gallery, Hamilton
- 1980 New Vision Gallery, Auckland
- 1979-80 Touring Retrospective, Govett-Brewster Art Gallery
- 1979 Galerie Legard, Wellington
- 1978 *Don Driver, Recent Sculpture*, New Vision Gallery, Auckland
- 1977 Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth
Don Driver Recent Paintings, Dowse Art Gallery, Lower Hutt
- 1971 Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth
Don Driver, Sculptures and Reliefs, New Vision Gallery, Auckland
- 1970 New Vision Gallery, Auckland
- 1969 Bonython, Sydney, Australia
Peter McLeavey Gallery, Wellington
- 1966 *Don Driver*, New Vision Gallery, Auckland & Peter McLeavey Gallery, Wellington
- 1963 Adult Education, Victoria University, Touring exhibition to North Island Centres

ARTIS

G A L L E R Y

COLLECTIONS:

Rutherford Trust Collection, Wellington
Petrocorp Collection, New Plymouth
Parliamentary Loans Collections, Wellington
Chartwell Collection, Hamilton
Hocken Library, Dunedin
Robert McDougall Art gallery, Christchurch
Rotorua Museum of Art and History
Fletcher Collection, Fletcher House, Auckland
Dunedin Public Art Gallery
Robert McDougall Art Gallery
Waikato Museum of Art and History, Hamilton
Auckland City Art Gallery
Hawkes Bay Art Gallery and Museum, Napier
Manawatu Art Gallery, Palmerston North
Govett-Brewster Gallery, New Plymouth
Victoria University Collection, Wellington
Dowse Art Gallery, Lower Hutt
National Gallery, Wellington
Victoria University Collection, Wellington

AWARDS:

1953 Sculpture Prize, Auckland, nz
1971 QE II Arts Council Award
1972 Winner Benson and Hedges Art Award
1974 Winner Hansells' Sculpture Award
1978 QE II Arts Council Award
1984 QE II Arts Council Travel Grant
QE II Arts Council Purchase Grant
Winner Wanganui Art Award