

Glenys Brookbanks

Lives and works in Auckland

Elam School of Fine Arts in
1988

Glenys Brookbanks decided to train as an artist relatively late in life. Since completing her Bachelor's degree at Elam in 1988 she has maintained an impressive and comprehensive schedule of exhibitions, both in dealer Galleries and in the Public Sector. In addition to this, her work is held in many of the Country's top public and Private Collections, including those of Te Papa Tongarewa, Jenny Gibbs and Jim and Mary Barr.

Over the course of her career, Brookbanks has gained an impressive following for her post-minimalist works completed in gesso and graphite. Her work was included in the City Gallery's (Wellington) 1995 highly influential show of contemporary New Zealand painting: *A Very Peculiar Practice* and just over a year later in the Govett Brewster's (New Plymouth) 1996 seminal show: *Skirted Abstraction* which was devoted to work by women abstract painters. Brookbanks is one of those women painters who take the minimalist colour field made by men and ruffle its hard edged surfaces to create an art which the critic Justin Paton has named *Diaphanism*.

Brookbanks takes the classical modernist grid structure and subverts the geometrical trellis by boring small holes in the gesso or tempera surface. The result is a painting of feather-like delicacy underpinned with a firm structure. Like Luise Fong, Glenys Brookbanks is concerned with the "skin" of her art. The viewer becomes interested in negotiating its many shifting surface changes. This is very different from the way we read the tightly constructed surfaces of earlier modern abstract painting in which plane, field and edge were of primary concern. Linda Tyler has written that Brookbanks' painting "offers a quiet homage to geometry which is touched with mystery."



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AWARDS

2001 Finalist, Trust Waikato National Contemporary Art Awards

2000 Finalist, James Wallace Awards

1998 QEII Arts Council Grant

1996 Finalist, Visa Gold Art Awards

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1995 Finalist, Robert Mcdougal Art Annex, Christchurch

1995 Finalist, Cranleigh Barton Drawing award

EXHIBITIONS

2015 Waiting for Giotto, nkb Gallery, Auckland

2014 The Works, Glenys Brookbanks & Paul V Johnston,
Allpress Gallery, Auckland

2012 Brookbanks Squared, nkb Gallery, Auckland

2011 Solo Exhibition, nkb Gallery, Auckland

2010 Solo Exhibition, nkb Gallery, Auckland

2005 Glenys Brookbanks & Esther Leigh, 64Zero3,
Christchurch.

1998 Two Artists. Anna Bibby Gallery, Auckland.

1997 Three Major Surveys, Modern New Zealand Art,
Milford House, Dunedin

1996 Skirting Abstraction, Group Exhibition, Govett-
Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth



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1995 A Very Peculiar Practice, Group Exhibition, City
Gallery, Wellington

1993 Glenys Brookbanks and Seraphine Pick, Claybrook
Gallery, Auckland

1988 Not Only Hats, Solo Exhibition, RKS Gallery, Auckland

COLLECTIONS

Te Papa Tongarewa

James Wallace Arts Trust

Fletcher Trust Collection

University of Auckland

Les and Milly Paris Collection

John Weeks Collection

Grey College Collection (UK)

Auckland City Council

