

Neal Palmer

lives and works in Auckland

Bachelor of Arts (Honours)  
in Fine Arts, Trent University,  
Nottingham, 1998

Neal Palmer was born 1968 in London. He gained a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Fine Arts from Trent University in Nottingham, England before moving to New Zealand in 1998. He now lives and paints as a full time artist in Auckland and is highly regarded for his realist botanical paintings. He has been a finalist in various art competitions including the Margaret Stoddart Prize and the Wallace Trust Awards. In 2010 he gained the merit award in the Molly Morpeth Art Award in Whakatane.

Palmer has exhibited regularly since 1999 and his work is held in numerous private, corporate and public collections across New Zealand, Asia, Australia, Europe & USA including the Wallace Arts Trust in Auckland and Tokyo Bank, Japan.

Moving to New Zealand in 1998 and coming to terms with the natural environment of his new home, Palmer began to explore local subject matter, finding a strong affinity and emotional response from the native flax which became both a recurring motif and signature for the artist.

Neal Palmer's large scale botanical works exhibit a tension between the flatness of the picture plane and the illusion of depth and space he creates with his brush. He uses strong diagonal forms and multi-toned colours as compositional elements to lead the eye across the painted surface and into its imagined background. More than anything, Neal's paintings are a reflection of his love of natural form and involvement with the act of painting; the manipulation of colour, its hues and tones to form convincing photorealistic pictures

With a consistent interest in blending colour, pattern, texture and abstract forms Palmer has consistently developed

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and perfected the illusion of a photographic depth of field. Allowing his work to slip in and out of pictorialism and abstract flatness; creating a tension between the painting's surface and the illusion of space. Aspiring for his work to be relational "on as many levels as possible" and passion for quality "mark-making that lifts the painting beyond the material world" is what drives this artist.

#### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2017 Midas Touch nkb Gallery

2016 Horsing Around, nkb Gallery, Auckland

2015 Complex Rhythms, nkb Gallery, Auckland

2015 Reflections on Form, Milford Galleries, Queenstown

2013 Silver Linings, nkb Gallery, Auckland

2013 Return Journeys, Milford Galleries, Queenstown

2011 Luminance, Milford Galleries, Queenstown

2011 Splash, Whitespace, Ponsonby, Auckland

2010 Woven Paths, Milford Galleries, Queenstown

2009 Get Real (Neal Palmer & Sam Foley), Whitespace,  
Ponsonby, Auckland

2008 Say It With Flowers, SOCA, Newton, Auckland

2007 White Light, SOCA, Newton, Auckland

2006 The Sum Of Their Parts, SOCA, Newton, Auckland

2004 On The Fence - Studio of Contemporary Art,  
Newmarket, Auckland



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2003 *Between the Lines* - Studio of Contemporary Art,  
Newmarket, Auckland

2002 *Formation* - Studio of Contemporary Art,  
Newmarket, Auckland.

2001 *Natural Explorations* - Studio of Contemporary Art,  
Newmarket, Auckland.

2000 *New Zealand Icons* - Studio of Contemporary Art,  
Newmarket, Auckland.

1999 *Larger Than Life (ii)* - Studio of Contemporary Art,  
Newmarket, Auckland

1999 *Larger Than Life* - El Framo Gallery, Ponsonby,  
Auckland

#### SELECTED REVIEWS & QUOTES

“..The artist thrusts his plants uncompromisingly at us,  
exploring nature’s rhythm...the skill of the painting is  
undeniable... “

- T.J. McNamara in the NZ Herald reviewing ‘Get Real’  
December 2013

“Vividness, hyper-reality and sheer painterly skill... Brilliant  
technique...”

- T.J. McNamara in the NZ Herald reviewing ‘Say It With  
Flowers’, November 2008

“The breathtaking large paintings of flora create an  
amazing scale relationship with the viewer. Despite the  
size of the paintings Palmer still captures the very essence  
of the subject he decides to paint, through extraordinary  
focus on detail...”

- Viva Magazine (NZ Herald), ‘Saying it with flowers’,  
October 2008

“The results are often vivid and the appropriately titled  
*Flame Thrower* is a surge of scarlet flowers spread in great

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detail across three panels. The painting is given weight by the column of the main stalk of the flax flower and the dropping weight of decaying leaves.”

- T.J. McNamara in the NZ Herald reviewing ‘White Light’, September 2007.

“Precision on a grander scale is apparent in the work of Neal Palmer who is showing at SOCA Gallery in France St, Newton. Individual paintings often consist of panels of aluminium on board. They are held together by a dancing rhythm of intersecting geometric arcs. Behind these are accurately painted pohutukawa and flax. These are exuberant, three times life size, and often startlingly red though with a hint of decay and insect activity. The brushwork emphasises such things as the fibrous nature of flax leaves. The rhetorical enlargement, geometry and realism celebrate the variety of growth in many forms, from the trumpeting stamen of a big red hibiscus in Feeling Fruity, to the erect thrust of red flax flowers in Big Love. This accomplished exhibition is called The Sum of Their Parts and surely the total comes to more than their sum.”

- T.J. McNamara in the NZ Herald, reviewing The Sum Of Their Parts, November 2006.

#### SELECTED ARTICLES AND PRESS

‘The Gilded Touch’ – Art News New Zealand, Spring Edition 2017

‘Our Pick at the Galleries’ – Viva Magazine (New Zealand Herald) – October 2016

‘NZ Horse & Pony Magazine’ – October 2016

‘Artist Profile’ - Verve Magazine – April, 2016

‘Painter utilises ancient art technique’ - Central Leader – Friday, October 16th, 2015



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'Gilding the Pohutukawa' - Sunday Star Times -  
September 12th, 2015

Neal Palmer - Interview - The Garden Magazine -October  
2013

Artist Profile - NZ House & Garden -February 2010

'What's Hot?' Sunday Magazine - January 17th, 2010

Get Real: exhibition review by T.J. McNamara - New  
Zealand Herald 8th November 2009

Auckland Room, Beach house with a bang- Metro  
Magazine - Tuesday, April 1st, 2008

White Light: exhibition review by T.J. McNamara - New  
Zealand Herald -September 2007

The Sum of Their Parts: exhibition review by T.J. McNamara  
NZ Herald - November 2006

'Walk-on success'-Art Watch,Sunday Star Times, 29  
October 2006

'Investment Art,Risks and Possibilities' - N.B.R. John Daly-  
Peoples,18 November 2004

'Best bets for punters'- Visual Arts review, T.J. McNamara,  
NZ Herald, 11 August 2004

'Snapshot Reality - The Painted World of Neal Palmer' - Art  
New Zealand, Autumn 2004

'Dealers name rising artists and stars' - National Business  
Review, November 2003

'Morning! Live from Tabi Salad' - TV Asahi, Japan

'Recommended' by T.J. McNamara - Arts on Wednesday,  
NZ Herald, 8 October 2003

'Essential Viewing' - NZ House & Garden, October 2003



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'Natural Talent Blooms' - Arts on Monday, NZ Herald, 28  
October 2002 (review by T.J. McNamara)

#### SELECTED GROUP SHOWS

2017 Foundations, , nkb Gallery, Auckland

2017 Notes from a Poetic Universe, nkb Gallery, Auckland

2016 Former Things, nkb Gallery, Auckland

2015 This is The Day, nkb Gallery, Auckland

2014 The Flower Show, The Vivian, Matakana

2014 Oscilate, nkb Gallery, Auckland

2013 Finalist, Wallace Art Awards, Auckland

2013 The April Group show, The Vivian, Matakana

2012 Review, Milford Galleries, Queenstown

2011 Spring Catalogue, Milford Galleries, Queenstown

2010 Bloom, Milford Galleries, Queenstown

2010 My City, Whitespace Gallery, Auckland

2010 Putiputi: The Flower in Contemporary New Zealand  
Art, Hastings City Art Gallery

2010 Braveheart Youth Trust Art Exhibition, ASB  
Showgrounds, Auckland

2010 The Royal Queenstown Easter Show, Milford  
Galleries, Queenstown

2010 Molly Morpeth Art Award (Merit Award), Whakatane



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2009 Margret Stoddart Prize, COCA, Christchurch

2008 A Bid For Freedom (SAFE), SOCA, Auckland

2008 Artists in Eden, Mt Eden, Auckland

2006 100 × 100 – McPherson Gallery, Vulcan Lane,  
Auckland

2005 'When Brush Meets Bonnet', Team McMillan BMW  
Art Awards, Auckland

2004 'Art & Design', Clerkenwell, London

2004 Finalist, Wallace Art Awards, Auckland

2004 Kings School Foundation Art Exhibition, Auckland

2004 35K & The Golden Apple, Artspace, Karangahape  
Rd, Auckland

2004 Artists in Eden, Mt Eden, Auckland

2004 'Big Red' - Celebrating the Pohutukawa, Rotorua  
Museum

2003 Screen Invitational at Exit, Studio of Contemporary  
Art, Auckland

2003 L.A. International Biennial Art Invitational, Los  
Angeles

2002 100 × 100 - McPherson Gallery, Vulcan Lane,  
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2002 Artists in Eden, Mt Eden, Auckland

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2001 North Shore Art Awards - Mairangi Arts Centre,  
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Auckland

#### AWARDS & DISTINCTIONS

2015 Finalist, Wallace Art Awards

2013 Finalist, Wallace Art Awards (work purchased for  
collection)

2011 Finalist, Wallace Art Awards

2014 Finalist, Molly Morpeth Awards

2010 Finalist and 'Merit Award Winner' Molly Morpeth  
Awards

2008 Finalist, Margret Stoddart Prize

2004 Finalist, Wallace Art Awards

#### PUBLICATIONS AND BOOKS

20 Contemporary Artists of New Zealand 2005 Art Diary  
published by Saints

Contemporary New Zealand Artists Calendar (2005)  
published by Saints

New Zealand Art 2005 calendar by Craig Potton Publishing

Contemporary Artists of New Zealand Calendar 2005  
published by Saints





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New Zealand Art 2004 calendar by Craig Potton Publishing

Greeting Cards (series of 12) distributed by Live Wires

'Art New Zealand Today' book of exhibiting artists  
published by Saints

Contemporary Artists of New Zealand Calendar 2003  
(cover) published by Saints

#### SELECTED COLLECTIONS

Wallace Arts Trust, Auckland

Vero Centre, Auckland

Auckland City Council, Auckland

Private Collections - New Zealand, Australia, Asia, Europe  
and USA.

