


Peter Miller

Waikato lives in Auckland

Peter Miller was born in the Waikato (1955) and has exhibited frequently throughout New Zealand since the mid-90s. He has been a regular finalist in some of New Zealand's most prestigious art awards - recently winning the Molly Morpeth Canady Art Award (2014) and a finalist in the 2013, 2015 & 2016 Wallace Art Awards as well as a regular placeholder at the Adam Portraiture Award. A number of his exhibitions have been reviewed by NZ Herald critic TJ Mcnamara who recently remarked of his still life work (2016): "Peter Miller has made quite a reputation as a painter of still-life; old toys were a memorable part of his subject matter... his paintings showed his skill with colour and his exceptional draughtsmanship.". Miller featured in Warwick Brown's landmark book "Seen This Century, A collectors guide: 100 Contemporary New Zealand Artists" (pages 276 -279) and his work features in public, private and corporate collections across Europe, USA and Australasia, including a number of works in the James Wallace Arts Trust (Auckland).

The origin of Millers work lies in the Dutch Vanitas paintings of the 16th and 17th century but lie open to interpretation through the eyes of the viewer. The painters of the Vanitas genre used strong iconic symbolism within their paintings to refer to the transient nature of life and 'significance' of mankind's pursuits in the face of the endless passing of time. Miller has tended to avoid the overt symbolism of the Vanitas painters, choosing instead to work predominantly with subtlety and ambiguity. He uses the objects contained within the paintings to create an illusion of a story or an allusion to a story, without giving a defined narrative. The spatial element within the painting (in which the object is framed) is used to create a sense of disquiet and altered reality. Here too, the shadows play an important part, giving a sense of time passing, of the days end - and the disquiet that can be evoked with the image of twilight. As art critic TJ Mcnamara noted in 2006 Miller's paintings are more than just representation: "To copy things exactly as they appear is craft, but to make them metaphorical, symbolic and memorable is art... These are not nostalgic illustrations but powerful evocations of time and, even more, of the passing of time."



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Miller can best be classified as a contemporary still life painter. He has chosen to play with that same theme but to reinvent it in a more subtle personal manner, using simple common objects of a personal significance and beauty. The damaged, worn and broken objects within these paintings are used to indicate the fragility and impermanence of material possessions and through this the fragile nature of life itself. The objects show signs of wear and tear and reference the passing of childhood and through this the passing of time also. They may also provoke a sense of nostalgia within the viewer, signifiers of a childhood and times gone by which are no longer attainable but fondly admired.

AWARDS

2015 New Zealand Painting and Printmaking Award, Hamilton- (finalist)

2015 Molly Morpeth Canaday Award, Whakatane- (finalist)

2014 Adam Portraiture Award, Wellington (finalist)

2014 Molly Morpeth Canaday Award, Whakatane- (finalist, 1st prize)

2013 James Wallace Trust Art Award, Auckland- (finalist, touring show)

2013 Molly Morpeth Canaday Award, Whakatane- (finalist, merit award)

2012 Adam Portraiture Award, Wellington- (finalist)

2012 New Zealand Painting and Printmaking Art Award, Hamilton- (finalist)

2011 New Zealand Painting and Printmaking Art Award, Hamilton- (finalist)

2011 Molly Morpeth Canaday Award, Whakatane- (finalist)

2010 Adam Portraiture Award, Wellington- (finalist, nz touring show)

2010 Molly Morpeth Canaday Award, Whakatane- (finalist)

2008 Adam Portraiture Award, Wellington- (finalist, Auckland touring show)

2008 New Zealand Painting and Printmaking Art Award, Hamilton- (finalist)



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2006 Walker and Hall Art Award, Waiheke- (finalist)

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2006 James Wallace Trust Art Award, Auckland- (finalist)

2004 James Wallace Trust Art Award, Auckland- (finalist)

2004 Waikato Painting and Printmaking Art Award, Hamilton- (finalist)

2003 James Wallace Trust Art Award, Auckland- (finalist, Wellington touring show)

2003 Norsewear Art Award, Hastings- (finalist)

2003 Waikato Painting and Printmaking Art Award, Hamilton- (finalist)

2002 James Wallace Trust Art Award, Auckland- (touring finalist) 2002: Norsewear Art Award, Hastings- (finalist)

1998 James Wallace Trust Art Award, Auckland- (finalist)

1998 Waitakere Licensing Trust Art Award, Auckland- (finalist)

1997 Waitakere Licensing Trust Art Award, Auckland- (2nd prize)

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2018 Beneath the Surface- nkb Gallery, Auckland

2017 This Mortal Coil - nkb Gallery, Auckland

2016 Presence - nkb Gallery, Auckland

2015 When I Grow Up - nkb Gallery, Auckland

2013 Railway Street Gallery, Auckland- The Mark of an Object

2013 The Mark of an Object- Whitespace Gallery,, Auckland

2009 The Age of Innocence- Whitespace Gallery, Auckland

2007 Time Passing, Passing Time- Mcpherson Gallery, Auckland

2006 Stuck In Traffic- Mcpherson Gallery Auckland

2004 Passing Time- Gallery 33, Wanaka

2002 Heavy Traffic- Mcpherson Gallery



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GROUP EXHIBITION HISTORY

- 2015 The Vivian Gallery, Matakana, Auckland- the Figurative Show
- 2015 Gallery 33, Wanaka
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- 2014 NKB Gallery, Auckland- Fusion
- 2014 Molly Morpeth Canaday Art Award, Whakatane (finalist, 1st prize)
- 2014 Adam Portraiture Award, Wellington (finalist)
- 2013 Gallery 33, Wanaka-
- 2013 Gallery 33, Wanaka- Flight
- 2011 Gallery 33, Wanaka- Domestic Interiors
- 2010 Gallery 33, Wanaka-Feast
- 2010 Whitespace gallery, Auckland- Seachange
- 2010 Gallery 33, Wanaka- Cars and Trucks and Things That Go
- 2010 J. J. Morgan & co., Wellington- Blankets on the Beach
- 2009 Whitespace gallery, Auckland- Chorus
- 2009 NKB gallery, Auckland (easter group exhibition)
- 2008 Gallery 33, Wanaka
- 2007 Mcpherson gallery, Auckland

