

Elizabeth Thomson

Born 1955, Auckland, Aotearoa New Zealand
Lives and works in Wellington, Aotearoa New Zealand

Masters of Fine Art, Elam School of Fine Arts University of Auckland (1998)

Selected solo exhibitions

2024

STILL AND ALWAYS, Page Gallery, Wellington

2023

The Pool of Mnemosyne, Page Gallery, Wellington

Cellular memory by Elizabeth Thomson: Selected Works, The Central Art Gallery, Christchurch

2022

Cellular memory, Te Uru Waitakere Contemporary Gallery, Auckland

My Titirangi Years, Two Rooms Gallery, Auckland

Lateral Series; Habitable Zones, Page Gallery, Wellington

2021

Lateral Theories, Two Rooms Gallery, Auckland

Synthetic Cubism, Page Gallery, Wellington

2019

Elizabeth Thomson, Sumer Gallery, Tauranga

Coda Phenomena, Page Gallery, Wellington

2018

My Titirangi Years, Page Blackie Gallery, Wellington

White coda blue coda, Two Rooms, Auckland

Relativity and the Structure of Things, The Central, Arts Centre, Christchurch

2017

Cellular Memory: a survey exhibition 1989–2017, Aratoi, Wairarapa Museum of Art and History,
Masterton, curated by Gregory O'Brien

Navigating the Zone, The Central, Arts Centre, Christchurch

Invitation to Openness., Two Rooms, Auckland

The Black-And-Whites, Page Blackie Gallery, Wellington

2016

Subliminal, Two Rooms, Auckland

Freedom and Structure – Navigating the Zone, Page Blackie Gallery, Wellington

Invitation to Openness, Substantive and Transitive States, Waikato Museum, Hamilton & Whangarei
Art Museum Te Manawa Toi

2015

Body of the Sentient, Two Rooms, Auckland

Between Memory and Oblivion, Page Blackie Gallery, Wellington

New Blueland, Nadene Milne Gallery, Arrowtown

Pool of Memory. Sydney Contemporary, Page Blackie Gallery

Invitation to Openness, Substantive and Transitive States, Tauranga Art Gallery

2014

Voyage Sauvage, Dominik Mersch Gallery, Sydney
Transitive States, Two Rooms, Auckland
Hanene, Breathing Gently, Page Blackie Gallery, Wellington
Invitation to Openness, Substantive and Transitive States, Dowse Art Museum, Lower Hutt
Elysian Fields, Pataka Art + Museum, Porirua

2013

Transitive States, Pataka + Museum, Porirua

2012

The Ocean of Eden, Two Rooms, Auckland
Over and Above, Black Barn Gallery, Havelock North
Islands of Dodonaea, RH Gallery, Upper Moutere

2011

Colour/ Field, City Gallery Wellington, curated by Aaron Lister

2010

Another Green World, Tauranga Art Gallery

2009

La Planète Sauvage, Two Rooms, Auckland
Tonight in the Mystic Garden, Black Barn Gallery, Havelock North

2008

Astrophysics and the Thomson Effect, Mark Hutchins Gallery, Wellington
Supposition, Two Rooms, Auckland
Horoeka: rh art, Woollaston Estate, Upper Moutere

2007

Studies for the Bigger Picture, Anna Bibby Gallery, Auckland
Relativity and the Fourth Dimension, Mark Hutchins Gallery, Wellington
Elizabeth Thomson – my hi-fi my sci-fi, touring to City Gallery Wellington; Waikato Museum of Art and History, Hamilton; Te Tuhi – Centre for the Arts, Auckland; Rotorua Museum of Art and History & Dunedin Public Art Gallery; survey exhibition curated by Gregory O'Brien

2006

Elizabeth Thomson – my hi-fi my sci-fi, City Gallery Wellington, curated by Gregory O'Brien
Interference, Anna Bibby Gallery, Auckland
Mondo Tondo, Mark Hutchins Gallery, Wellington
A Night and a Day, Nadene Milne Gallery, Arrowtown

2005

The Black and Whites, Anna Bibby Gallery, Auckland
Aerial, Mark Hutchins Gallery, Wellington

2004

Love Me Tender, Mark Hutchins Gallery, Wellington
Aviatrix, Anna Bibby Gallery, Auckland

2003

My Hi- Fi, My Sci -Fi, Anna Bibby Gallery, Auckland
Horoeka and Antequera, Observations on Home and Abroad, Michael Hirschfeld Gallery, City Gallery Wellington

2002

Horoeka and Antequera, Anna Bibby Gallery, Auckland

1999

Naenae Parterre, A Garden of Optics from the Intermillennium Series (1991–1996), Dowse Art Museum, Lower Hutt

1997

Fringe of Heaven: Ten Year Survey, Lopdell House Gallery, Titirangi

Purple Parterre, Artis Gallery, Auckland

Parterre, Brooker Gallery, Wellington

1996

Elizabeth Thomson Collected Works 1986–1996, Hawke's Bay Exhibition Centre, Napier

Waking up Slowly, Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki

From the Natural Abstraction Series 1991–1996, Fox Gallery, Auckland

1995

Sensillae, Jensen Gallery, Wellington.

1994

Phantoms of the Night, Te Manawa, Palmerston North

1991

The Winged and the Wingless, Fox Street Gallery, Auckland

Denizens of the Deep, Window Installation, Auckland City Art Gallery

1990

Manukau Heads, Lopdell House Gallery, Titirangi

The Winged and the Wingless, Catherine Scollay Gallery, Wellington

1989

The Fearless Five Hundred, Fox Gallery, Auckland

1988

Natural Aspects, George Fraser Gallery, Auckland

1987

Emerging Artists Series, Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth

New Work, Etchings and Bronze, Southern Cross Gallery, Wellington

New Zealand Print Survey, City Gallery Wellington

1986

Etchings, Southern Cross Gallery, Wellington

Selected group exhibitions

2024

Aotearoa Art Fair, Two Rooms, Auckland

Bunch, Page Gallery, Wellington

2023

Aotearoa Art Fair, Two Rooms, Auckland

Sydney Contemporary, Two Rooms, Carriageworks, Sydney

Outer-Body, Page Gallery, Wellington

2019

Waking Up Slowly: Elizabeth Thomson and Len Lye, Govett-Brewster Art Gallery/Len Lye Centre, New Plymouth

50/50: 50 Years of Aratoi, Aratoi, Wairarapa Museum of Art and History, Masterton

Water/Way, He manawa Whenua: He Puna Wai, Wairarapa Museum of Art and History, Masterton
Sydney Contemporary, Two Rooms, Carriageworks, Sydney

2018

The Water Project, Ashburton Gallery

2018

Auckland Art Fair, Two Rooms, Auckland

2017

Sydney Contemporary, Two Rooms, Carriageworks, Sydney

One Moment Please, still life show, The Central, Arts Centre, Christchurch

Landscape, Page Blackie Gallery, Wellington

The Northerner, The Vivian, Matakana

Tidal: Matakana, The Vivian, Matakana

2016

Kermadec: Lines in the Ocean, Forrester Gallery, Oamaru; Ashburton Gallery; Aratoi Wairarapa Museum of Art and History, Masterton

2015

Sydney Contemporary, Two Rooms, Carriageworks, Sydney

Kermadec: Lines in the Ocean, Te Manawa, Palmerston North

Kermadec: 9 artists in the Pacific, Tjibaou Cultural Centre, Noumea, New Caledonia

4,7,11, Dominik Mersch Gallery, Sydney

Kermadec: Lines in the Ocean, Whangarei Art Museum, Whangarei; Tairāwhiti Museum, Gisborne & Aigantighe Art Gallery, Timaru

Botanical Studies, Page Blackie Gallery, Wellington

2014

Sydney Goes Berlin, Dominik Mersch Gallery @ Galerie Patrick Ebensperger, Berlin

Melbourne Art Fair, Dominik Mersch, Sydney

Kermadec: Lines in the Ocean, Southland Museum & Art Gallery, Invercargill; Eastern Southland Art Gallery, Gore; Ashburton Art Gallery; Forrester Art Gallery, Oamaru & Millennium Gallery, Blenheim

2013

The Bold and the Beautiful, Two Rooms, Auckland

21st Century Collecting: Recent Acquisitions from the Victoria University of Wellington Art Collection, Adam Art Gallery, Wellington

Kermadec: Art Across the Pacific, Museo de Artes Contemporáneo, MAC, Universidad de Chile, Santiago

Kermadec: Lines in the Ocean, Hastings Art Gallery; Waikato Museum, Hamilton & Sarjeant Gallery, Whanganui

Hands to Bathe: Imagining a Kermadec Ocean Sanctuary, Torpedo Bay Navy Museum, Devonport, Auckland

Line/ Form /Colour /Intention, Page Blackie Gallery, Wellington

2012

Kermadec: Nine artists in the South Pacific, New Zealand High Commission, Nuku'alofa, Tonga

Kermadec: Nueve artistas exploran el pacífico sur, Rapa Nui, Easter Island

Kermadec: Nine artists explore the South Pacific, Voyager New Zealand Maritime Museum, Auckland & City Gallery Wellington

2011

Not Far From Home, Gretchen Albrecht and Elizabeth Thomson, Nadene Milne Gallery, Arrowtown

2011

Kermadec: Nine artists explore the South Pacific, Tauranga Art Gallery, curated by Gregory O'Brien and supported by the Global Ocean Legacy programme of the Pew Environment Group

Mystic Garden: Elizabeth Thomson and Megan Jenkinson, Mark Hutchins Gallery, Wellington

Call Waiting: A Celebration of the New Gallery 1995–2011, Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki, curated by Alexa Johnston

2010

May: Elizabeth Thomson, John Reynolds, Darren George, rh art, Woollaston Estate, Upper Moutere
Islandsong, Nadene Milne Gallery, Arrowtown

2009

2+2 – A Dialogue: Geoff Thornley, Elizabeth Thomson, Mark Hutchins Gallery, Wellington

Fixated: Photography Through History, Puke Ariki, New Plymouth

2008

He Korowai o te Wai, The Mantle of Water, Rotorua Museum of Art and History, curated by Ian Wedde
Cross Talk, Two Rooms, Auckland

The Real Art Road Show, Mahana Gallery, Waikanae

Thomson Westra Pardington, Nadene Milne Gallery, Arrowtown

2007

Significant Other: Diptych works by Gretchen Albrecht, Geoff Thornley and Elizabeth Thomson, Mark Hutchins Gallery, Wellington

2004

Landscape, 7 NZ Artists, Anna Bibby Gallery, Auckland

Opening Exhibition, Centre of Contemporary Art, Cairns, North Queensland,

Project 04 Contemporary New Zealand Sculpture, Webb's, Auckland

2002

Conversation Pieces, Collaborative Works, Michael Hirschfeld Gallery, City Gallery Wellington

Red, Black, White, Anna Bibby Gallery, Auckland

Recent Contemporary Acquisitions, New Gallery, Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki

Botanica, Gus Fisher Gallery, Auckland

2001

Botanica, Adam Art Gallery, Wellington

1997

A Commonwealth of Art: Traditions, Imagination and Independent Nations, National Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur

Elizabeth Thomson, Gerda Leenards, Wellington Maritime Museum

1994

Elizabeth Thomson and Anne Noble, Janne Land Gallery, Wellington

The Nature of Things, Contemporary Still Life, Artis Gallery, Auckland

Barbeque at the Corral, ASA Gallery, Auckland

1993

X7 Artists Multiples, ASA Gallery, Auckland

1992

Sacred Way, City Gallery Wellington

Distance Looks Our Way, City Gallery Wellington; Auckland City Art Gallery; Stelling Gallery, Leiden, Holland & International Pavilion, Fabellon de las Arte, Expo, Seville, Spain

1990

Distance Looks Our Way, Sarjeant Gallery, Whanganui

Home Made Home, City Gallery Wellington

Heart + Land: Contemporary Works on Paper from Aotearoa, New Zealand, New Zealand Art Directors Council, toured regional galleries in Australia

Made in Metal: 10 Women Sculptors, touring to Waikato Museum of Art and History, Hamilton; Te Manawa, Palmerston North & Hawke's Bay Art Gallery & Museum, Napier

Print Exponents, travelling exhibition of contemporary New Zealand Prints, ASA Gallery, Auckland; bCSA Gallery Christchurch & Dunedin Public Art Gallery

Review 90 – Survey of recent works by Auckland artists, Te Tuhi, Auckland

1988

Fact and Desire, Real Pictures Gallery, Auckland

Photographs and Extensions of the Photograph, with Fiona Pardington and Marie Shannon, Southern Cross Gallery, Wellington.]

Contemporary New Zealand Art from the Permanent Collection of the Auckland City Art Gallery, Auckland

Fremantle Print Award Exhibition, Fremantle, Western Australia

1987

Seven Artists, Roz MacAllan Gallery, Brisbane

Young Contemporaries Exhibition, CSA Gallery, Christchurch

Elizabeth Thomson: 1987 Print Series, City Gallery Wellington

New Zealand Print Survey, City Gallery Wellington

1986

Ninth International Print Biennale, Cartwright Hall, Bradford & Victoria and Albert Museum, London

1983

New Energy in Bronze, Denis Cohn Gallery, Auckland

Selected commissions

Flight Test, North by Northwest, Tappenden Holdings, Auckland, 2013

Hanene, window work, 150 Oriental Parade, Wellington, 2012

Lady North Star Parterre, Tauranga Art Gallery, 2010

The Alpine Club, Queenstown Aquatic Centre, 2008

Big Wavy Gravy, The Matterhorn, Wellington, 2003

Sonic Panorama, University of Auckland, 2002

First Forest, Elusive Matter – from the Intermillennium Series, The Vero Building, Auckland, 1999–2000

Otari Rosetta, Metropolis, Auckland, 1999

The Spiny Way, Holmes Consulting Group, Auckland, 1996

Batocera Longhorns and Goliath, Manawatu Art Gallery, Palmerston North, 1995–96

the Photic Zone and Beyond, Kermadec Restaurant, Auckland, 1992–93

Cannibal Flies, Milford Sound Launch Terminal, 1991

The Fearless Five Hundred, KPMG Centre, Auckland, 1989

Selected collections

New Zealand art galleries

Aratoi, Wairarapa Museum of Art and History, Masterton
Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, \Wellington
Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki
Dowse Art Museum, Lower Hutt
Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth
Te Manawa, Palmerston North

International art galleries

Victoria and Albert Museum, London
Australian National Gallery, Canberra
Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane
Logan College, Queensland

New Zealand arts trust collections

James Wallace Trust
The Rutherford Trust Collection

Institutional collections

Victoria University, Wellington
The High Court, Wellington
The University of Auckland
UNITEC Institute of Technology, Auckland
Massey University, Palmerston North
Waikato University, Hamilton

Government collections

Parliamentary Services, Wellington
Department of Conservation
Ministry of Forestry

Local government collections

Wellington City Council Collection
Queenstown Lakes District Council

Corporate collections

National Bank of New Zealand (now ANZ)
Simpson Grierson
Chapman Tripp
Westpac ANZ
Kiwi Income Property
Johnson's Wax Collection, USA

Selected bibliography

Mark Amery, 'The Space In-Between', *Art Collector*, 77, July –September 2016,
'Poetic and powerful art', *Dominion Post*, 2013
'Elizabeth Thomson, My Hi Fi My Sci Fi', *Dominion Post*, 21 July 2006
'Elizabeth Thomson, My Hi Fi My Sci Fi', *The Lumière Reader*, 11 August 2006
'Going Public, Visual Art', *Dominion Post*, 27 June 2003
Warwick Brown, *One Hundred New Zealand Artists*, Godwit Publishing, Auckland, 1996
Tom Cardy, 'Artist turning over a new leaf', *Dominion Post*, 27 June 2003

- Elizabeth Caughey (ed), 'Elizabeth Thomson', *Contemporary New Zealand Artists 4*, David Bateman, Auckland, 2005, pp 64–66
- Dan Chappell, 'Making It. A Quiet Suspension of Disbelief', *Art News New Zealand*, Spring 2014,
- Shelly Clement, 'Aerial perspective', *Urbis Landscapes*, 8, May–July 2006, pp. 26–30
- Katy Corner, 'Wellington', *Art News*, Summer 2005
- 'Sense on High Alert, Elizabeth Thomson', *Australian Art Review*, 12, 2006
- Dowse Art Museum, 'Elizabeth Thomson: Invitation to Openness: Substantive and Transitive States', exhibition publication, Dowse Art Museum, Lower Hutt, 2014
- Michael Dunn, *New Zealand Sculpture: A History*, Auckland University Press, Auckland, 2002
- Susan Foster, 'Exhibitions: Wellington', *Art New Zealand*, 44, Spring 1987
- Louise Garrett, 'Exhibitions: Wellington', *Art New Zealand*, 83, Winter 1997
- Bronwen Golder & Gregory O'Brien, *Kermadec: Nine Artists Explore the South Pacific*, Pew Environment Group & Tauranga Art Gallery, Washington DC & Tauranga, 2011, plss associated publications for Tonga, Rapa Nui & Chile
- , *Encounters*, Global Ocean Legacy, Kermadec Initiative, 2011; publication reporting on voyage by nine artists voyage to the Kermadecs on the HMNZS *Otago*
- Ruth Harvey, 'The Dynamics of Difference: Photography's influence on the work of Elizabeth Thomson', *Art New Zealand*, 124, Spring 2007, pp 50–53
- , 'Immersion: A conversation with Elizabeth Thomson', *Art New Zealand*, 143, Winter 2012
- Aaron Lister, *Colour / Field*, exhibition publication, City Gallery Wellington, Wellington, 2011
- Jill McIntosh (ed), *Contemporary New Zealand Prints*, Allen & Unwin / Port Nicholson Press, Wellington, 1989
- TJ McNamara, 'Visual Arts, Vignettes of Our World', *New Zealand Herald*, 15 November 2014
- , 'Visual Arts', *New Zealand Herald*, 17 May 2006
- , 'Visual Arts', *New Zealand Herald*, 18 August 2004
- , 'Beauty of the Commonplace', *New Zealand Herald*, 17 July 2003
- , 'From the Scant to the Generous', *New Zealand Herald*, 30 September 2002
- Anna Miles, 'Elizabeth Thomson: Collected Works 1986–1996', exhibition notes, Hawke's Bay Exhibition Centre, Hastings, 1996
- , 'Waking up Slowly', exhibition notes, Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki, Auckland, 1996
- 'Ninth British International Print Biennale', Bradford Art Galleries and Museums, Bradford, 1986
- Gregory O'Brien, 'Cellular Memory: Elizabeth Thomson', artist profile, Australia, March 2014
- , To the Island— artists in the Kermadec: Artist Profile, Australia, August 2011
- , 'Elizabeth Thomson, The Ocean of Eden: The Kermadecs and beyond', exhibition publication, Two Rooms & Elizabeth Thomson, Auckland, 2012
- , 'Transitive States – Elizabeth Thomson', exhibition publication, Pataka Art + Museum, Porirua, July 2013
- , (ed), *Elizabeth Thomson – my hi-fi my sci-fi*, City Gallery Wellington, Wellington, 2006
- Justin Paton, 'Hushed, frail and uncannily serene', *New Zealand Herald*, 17 September 1996
- , 'Rogue Mutations', *New Zealand Listener*, 14 February 1998, pp 42–43
- Jennifer Phipps & Linda Tyler, *Heart + Land: Contemporary Works on Paper from Aotearoa New Zealand*, catalogue, New Zealand Art Gallery Directors Council, Wellington, 1980
- Josie Stenhardt, 'My Hi Fi My Sci Fi', *Magneto: Massey University Magazine*, 2006
- Keith Stewart, 'Creative tension derived through visual paradox', *Sunday Star Times*, 14 December 1997
- , 'Heaven reveals artist's world', *Sunday Star Times*, 1 February 1998, p 5
- Bridget Sutherland, 'The Fearless Five Hundred: The World of Elizabeth Thomson', *Art New Zealand*, 57, Summer 1990–91, pp 54–57
- , 'Elizabeth Thomson, The Owl, the Ghost and the Moon', in Mary Barr (ed), *Distance Looks Our Way: 10 Artists from New Zealand*, Distance Looks Our Way Trust, Wellington, 1992, pp 103–09

- Jill Trevelyan, 'Elizabeth Thomson', in Fiona Campbell (ed), *The Big Book of Essays: New Zealand Contemporary Art from the Real Art Roadshow*, Real Art Roadshow Charitable Trust, Wanaka, 2007, p 56
- Peter Webb Galleries, *Project 04 Contemporary NZ Sculpture*, catalogue, Peter Webb Galleries, Auckland, 2004
- Ian Wedde, 'Prints That Buckle', *Evening Post*, 11 November 1987
- , 'Nature's Volume, Elizabeth Thomson and the organisation of the world', *New Zealand Listener*, 17 June 2006, pp 38–40
- , 'He Korowai o te Wai, The Mantle of Water', Rotorua Museum of Art and History, Rotorua, 2007
- Virginia Were, 'Into the Wild', *Art News New Zealand*, Winter 2003, pp 54–57
- , 'Shifting Truth: Artist Profile', *Art News New Zealand*, Summer 1998, p 21
- Charlotte Wilson, 'Art, Life, Music – Elizabeth Thomson', Radio New Zealand from 'The Sunday Feature', 'September 2016,
<http://www.radionz.co.nz/concert/programmes/sundayfeature/audio/201811426/art,-life,-music-elizabeth-thomson>