

Two Rooms

Gretchen Albrecht is one of Aotearoa New Zealand's preeminent abstract painters, receiving wide renown as a consummate colourist. Albrecht's paintings combine formal, historical and ephemeral qualities with a sensuous colour palette and the staining of her canvas's act as a generous counterpoint for rhythmic patterns of architectural form, gestural movement and scale. Albrecht has exhibited extensively in New Zealand and internationally for over five decades. Her work is held in major New Zealand and Australian public collections including the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, Auckland Art Gallery, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, The University of Auckland and Victoria University. She is the subject of several major publications, most recently, her monograph. *Between gesture and geometry* (Massey University Press, Auckland, 2019).

Leigh Martin (Te Ati Haunui a Paparangi, Uenuku) is a New Zealand based painter who lives and works between Auckland, New Zealand and Karlsruhe, Germany. As an artist who works with self prescribed rhythmic frameworks to draw out the minutiae of painterly effects, Martin overlays his practice with research in the mechanics of sound. Using controlled, repetitive motions to pull paint across the paintings' surfaces, Martin works to catch the impression of silken weaving that emerges through the relationship between the two mediums. Martin studied for his Bachelor of Fine Arts at the Glasgow School of Fine Art, Scotland from 1991 until 1993 where he received the Christies Prize, the Armour Prize and the Cargill Scholarship before returning to complete a Master of Fine Arts (first class honours) at AUT, Auckland in 2013. He exhibits throughout New Zealand and internationally and his work is held in significant public and private collections including Christchurch Art Gallery, Auckland Art Gallery and the Wallace Arts Trust.

Simon Morris is a contemporary artist based in Wellington, Aotearoa New Zealand where he lectures in painting at Whiti O Rehua School of Art, Massey University. His work is concerned with the perception of space, time and action through visual systems, which he explores through a diverse painting practice that includes site responsive wall painting, conceptual abstract artworks and architectural collaboration. His most recent wall drawing project 'Yellow Ochre Room 2015', was commissioned by Christchurch Art Gallery New Zealand. In 2017 he was awarded the Fulbright Wallace scholarship, participating in the artist in residence programme at Headlands Centre for the Arts in San Francisco. He has participated in many international group exhibitions and his work is held in the collections of Chartwell, Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, Victoria University, Wellington Wellington City Council Art Collection and Waikato Museum of Art and History, Hamilton.

John Nixon is one of the leading figures in Australasian abstraction. Since graduating from the National Gallery School, Melbourne in 1970 his work has been dedicated to on-going experimentation in the idioms of radical modernism, minimalism, the monochrome, collage, constructivism, non-objective art and the readymade, which remain key reference points in his work. Nixon has exhibited extensively during his distinguished career in solo and group exhibitions throughout Europe, the United States and Australasia and in 1982 was included in the major exhibition *Documenta 7*, in Kassel, Germany. In 2017 Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki staged the exhibition John Nixon Abstraction/ Colour is an Abstraction, based on the work held in their collection that was acquired over a 30 year period.

Jude Rae is one of Australia's most internationally recognised artists. Based in Sydney, she is primarily known for her still life paintings, portraits and architectural interiors. The non-narrative imagery she employs allows the attention to dwell on the formal and material aspects of representational painting, encouraging a more reflective and considered approach to the complexities of visual experience. Over the last thirty years Rae has exhibited in Australia, New Zealand, Germany and the USA. She has been awarded residencies in France, Italy and New Zealand. In 2005 and 2008 Rae won the Portia Geach Memorial Award for Portraiture and in 2019 won People's Choice in the Award. In 2014 she was a finalist in the Archibald Prize and in 2019 was Highly Commended in the Prize.

Tira Walsh is one of the most exciting painters to emerge from Auckland's art schools in recent years. Recoding images and stray residues through the framework of the canvas, painter Walsh courts experiential incoherence as one of her primary materials. Drawing on the affective space of film, special effects and her everyday experiences of the urban environment, Walsh treats each canvas as a 'repository of negotiation'. Walsh has begun to accrue a notable exhibition history since graduating with a Master of Creative Practice from Unitec in 2018. Recent group exhibitions include *Never An Answer*, 12 Abstract Painters, The Vivian, Matakana, curated by Linda Tyler and Lucinda Bennett (2018); *Drawcard*, State Gallery, Mt Eden, Auckland (2018); *My Hands are Visibly Soiled*, Snowwhite Gallery, Unitec, Auckland (2018); *Roundhouse*, TSB Bank Wallace Arts Centre, Auckland (2017-2018). In 2019 she was the Kaipara award winner at the Wallace Art Awards