

Water/Clay

PAINTERS AND POTTERS WORKING TOGETHER

*Avis Higgs/Flora Christeller • Vivian Manthel/Patti Meads • Tui McLauchlan/Wendy Masters • Cherie McLauchlan/Jean Hastedt
Shona McFarlane/Neville Porteous • Malcolm Warr/Anneke Borren • Lore Burbidge/Murray Clayton • Elizabeth Kay/Jean McKinnon
Robin Kay/Mirek Smišek • Philip Markham/Debbie Pointon • Faith Cornford/Mary Smith • Susan Anderson/Jo Munro
• Adrienne Rewi/Maureen Hunter • Rosemary Mortimer/Gloria Young*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

WATER/CLAY. A shared experience by members of the Wellington Potters Association and the Wellington Society of Watercolour Artists.

As president of the watercolour side of the partnership, I was delighted when Anne Philbin suggested the unusual concept for WATER/CLAY. It is a privilege for our societies to exhibit at the Wellington City Art Gallery and we appreciate the encouragement its director gives to artists in the Wellington region.

I have been guest curator for the exhibition and it has been a joy to see our ideas come to fruition. This has not happened without the hard work and help of many people. We are very lucky to have Odilins Limited for our business partner and I thank them very much for their support.

I would also like to thank Flora Christeller, president of the Wellington Potters Association who was a great help in the initial stages of the project, and the staff of the gallery, notably Mary Jessup, who has worked

with patience and tolerance co-ordinating the large group of exhibitors. Carol Knox photographer and Andrea Robinson the Education Officer, also went out into the homes and studios of the artists and interviewed them. Hence all the interesting background information.

I'm sure I speak for the artists when I acknowledge the support of the Wellington City Council, the Friends of the WCAG and of course, the ratepayers of Wellington without whom the gallery would not exist.

This is my opportunity to thank the participating artists for joining forces and accepting this unique challenge.

I truly hope that visitors to WATER/CLAY, the exhibition, will enjoy the project as much as we did in preparation for it.

Vivian Manthel
Guest Curator WATER/CLAY

FOREWORD

"How the hell is watercolour going to go with clay? It just doesn't go!" said one WATER/CLAY participant. But that was in the beginning. After a few preliminary sketches and a study of one another's work, the ideas and themes came in flashes of inspiration and the collaborations were sealed. Work was in progress! This is the pattern, the sequence which seemed to characterise preparation for WATER/CLAY. It was a confrontation and assimilation process between opposing groups of artists. Watercolour painting and pottery have little in common except water. Water produces the stained surfaces of the paintings and makes clay soft and responsive to the hand of the potter. But results could not be more opposite. The WATER/CLAY exhibition challenged artists to bring opposites together.

Vivian Manthel, guest curator for WATER/CLAY, began the project by selecting painters and potters from Wellington Society of Watercolour Artists and Wellington Potters Association. These 28 artists were then paired according to a preference for each other's work or a perceived mutual affinity. Those who met as strangers had to find a basic approach to the work they were to produce, to develop a theme of significance for them both and to understand each other's point of view. They needed to gain knowledge and understanding of each other's material — the painters facing the unpredictable component in the potter's craft, and the potters the constraints of watercolour painting.

Many technical problems had to be grappled with and solved, but the challenge delighted the artists as new ideas arose from the difficulties, sometimes requiring a complete change of direction and opening up endless possibilities. Painters abandoned the flat surface, potters attained paper-like qualities in their ceramics. The use of tissue, porcelain, salt glazes and colours — themes of landscape, personal emotions, human freedom and the world around us are expressed in the work of WATER/CLAY.

The experience of WATER/CLAY has been an exciting and enlivening one for the artists, aiding and enriching their growth and development and stretching their capacities. It has helped break new ground and been a spur to their ingenuity. Those who had never before worked alongside someone else, were surprised to find how rewarding it was. The result has brought a distinctive quality to the works and a breakthrough in the arts for Wellington. It is hoped that City Art Gallery will continue to challenge working artists of the region. It was a pleasure to watch WATER/CLAY happen.

Mary Jessup
WATER/CLAY Co-ordinator

Lore Burbidge
Murray Clayton

Born in Austria, Lore studied for four years at the Academy of Applied Art in Vienna, receiving a diploma in painting and graphics. She then worked as a freelance illustrator before coming to New Zealand in 1959. Since 1971, she has devoted her time to painting and part-time teaching at Wellington Polytechnic.

Besides exhibiting in Austria, she has exhibited in New Zealand with the Wellington Society of Watercolour Artists, the New Zealand Academy of Fine Arts and with the Canterbury Society of Fine Arts, Christchurch.

Her work is represented in private collections in Japan, Sweden, New Zealand and the United States.

1. Glimpses
2. Elements
3. Cityscapes

Tui McLauchlan
Wendy Masters

Born in Auckland, Tui studied art at the Wellington Technical College and Wellington Art Club. She helped found the Kapiti Art and Craft Society, was its president for a number of years and taught painting on behalf of the Society.

A regular contributor to exhibitions at the New Zealand Academy of Fine Arts, Tui has also held several solo exhibitions and participated in group shows.

She is a founding member of the Wellington Society of Watercolour Artists.

4. "Through the Workshop Window"

Born in Palmerston North, Murray graduated from the School of Architecture, University of Auckland, in 1969. He became interested in ceramics while working with architect/potter David Brokenshire, and has pursued this interest ever since, giving up architecture to become a full-time potter in 1980. Murray's work has been influenced by some years spent in London and Papua New Guinea. He is an artist member of the New Zealand Academy of Fine Arts, was secretary to the Wellington Potters Association for three years and is a member of the Potters Co-operative. He has exhibited in several galleries in Wellington and at The Chateau, Mt. Ruapehu.

Born in India 1943, Wendy gained her Diploma in Graphic Design at the Wellington Polytechnic. She first took up potting when she went to live on the Kapiti Coast. Closely involved with the development of art and craft in the district, she helped form an art group and taught painting. She has exhibited at dealer galleries, with the New Zealand Society of Potters, Fletcher Brownbuilt, New Zealand Academy of Fine Arts and the Wellington Society of Watercolour Artists.

Elizabeth Kay
Jean McKinnon

Born in Adelaide, Elizabeth has lived in Wellington and Lower Hutt since 1935. A painter for most of her life, she has studied art in a variety of classes including university extension courses and summer schools. She works in both watercolour and oils and is an artist member of the New Zealand Academy of Fine Arts, the Hutt Art Society and a foundation member of the Wellington Society of Watercolour Artists. As well as five solo exhibitions in the Wellington district, she has taken part in numerous group shows. She is the recipient of several awards.

Born in Santa Barbara, California, in 1942, Jean received her Bachelor of Fine Arts at the University of California. After marrying, she moved to New Zealand in 1964 and worked as a secondary school art teacher. While raising a family, she spent time in the Solomon Islands, Fiji and Thailand, where she also exhibited. Her work has been shown at the Antipodes Gallery, Wellington, and also at the Dowse Art Gallery, Lower Hutt, and Suter Gallery, Nelson, both of which own examples of her work.

5. "Perceptions of Light and Movement"

Faith Cornford
Mary Smith

Born in Havelock North in 1910. Faith did not begin painting until 1965 and has been painting seriously for the past five years. She is a foundation member of the Khandallah Artists Group and a committee member of the Wellington Society of Watercolour Artists.

Her work has been exhibited in Wellington at the New Zealand Academy of Fine Arts, the James Smith Gallery and the Antipodes Gallery and in Palmerston North at the Glasgow Gallery.

Born in Wellington, Mary attended Victoria University, graduating with a B.A. (hons) in 1970. She acquired potting expertise through attending various workshops and courses throughout the country. She is an exhibiting member of the New Zealand Society of Potters, the Wellington Potters Society, the New Zealand Academy of Fine Arts and the Potters Shop Co-operative.

6. "Shoreline"

Shona McFarlane
Neville Porteous

Born in Gore, 1929. Having trained as an art specialist at the Dunedin Teachers' College, Shona worked in Otago schools before continuing her studies at art schools in London.

Her professional career has included journalism, the directorship of a dealer art gallery, radio and television work. She has been prominent on committees of art, theatre and literary societies and in 1973 received the MBE for services to the arts and conservation.

She has had numerous solo exhibitions throughout New Zealand and has taken part in many group shows. Several collections of her illustrations and writings have been published and she has received commissions for stained glass window designs for several public buildings.

Her work is represented in a number of public and private collections in New Zealand and in private collections in Australia.

7. "Tiles and Tamarillos —
the Joy of Colour"

Born in Wanganui, Neville began potting twelve years ago, making it a full-time occupation over the last six years.

From their Khandallah studio/workshop he and his wife Gill specialise in hand-made tiles and the refinement of their pots for a ready New Zealand market.

Neville has also been involved in music, teaching and building.

Susan Anderson
Jo Munro

Born in England, 1946. Susan studied at the Wellington Polytechnic for two years before working for several years as a commercial artist. In the late 1960s and early 1970s she was commissioned to paint murals for public buildings in both the North and South Islands. Since her first solo exhibition in 1976, she has had two further exhibitions, both at the Molesworth Gallery, Wellington. In recent years she has taught secondary and night school art classes but is now devoting her time to the development of her own work.

Born Lancashire, England, in 1938. Jo has been a full-time potter in New Zealand for twenty years and has contributed to many shows in both Wellington and Auckland. She has recently been exploring the technique of smoke firing. Her first major exhibition was held earlier this year at the Molesworth Gallery.

8. "Large Panel"
Panel I
Panel II

of tamarillos and the glory of the colour is a recurring theme in my painting and Neville has picked up this theme for his ceramics." Shona McFarlane Partner: Neville Porteous

"We wanted to express space, form and a relationship with nearness and distance, light and dark."

Flora Christeller Avis Higgs

"We are concerned with destruction around us, the threat of war, the need to have a voice in what's happening and the need to record our times."

"We both have independent ideas but had no problems striking a theme for this show. Tui waits for inspiration to come to her and to guide her hand, while my inspiration comes from tangible things around me." Wendy Masters Partner: Tui McLauchlan

"We love what paper and clay do together, the effects of smoke glaze can go into the paintings. It's satisfying to work as a team."
Vivian Manthel Patti Meads

"We wanted to do something that would hold together and make sense — we wanted to highlight the primitive quality in the pots."
Jo Munro Susan Anderson

"Our work together has to do with words, with secrets, things people cover up from public view

"We both loved certain colours and our ideas too, fell into place. It seemed we were meant to be teamed up together and it was great fun!" Adrienne Rewi
Maureen Hunter

"Working together we made amazing discoveries and found we had so much in common — and yet have felt pushed to new thresholds." Jean McKinnon
Elizabeth Hay

"We both liked the high level of control in each other's work and the strong formal shapes."
Anneke Borren
Malcolm Warr

"We both like to identify with nature and enjoyed the idea of co-operation between potter and painter because one can reach into one another's soul, so to speak." Marek Smitšek
Robin Kay

"We have floated dozens of ideas, tried many things, had lots of disasters — it has been a very challenging exercise."
Murray Clayton
Lore Burbidge

"We didn't know what we'd do until we got together and then it just clicked!"
Cherie McLauchlan
Jean Hasteed

that invites curiosity." Philip Markham Debbie Pointon "Together we have interpreted the landscape in both colour and form. When I first looked at Mary's pots from the point of view of collaborating for the show, my immediate response was 'Hurrah!'" Faith Cornford Partner: Mary Smith "The perfect beauty of the shape

Avis Higgs
Flora Christeller

Avis Higgs is a fourth generation New Zealander. Born in Wellington, she studied art first at the Wellington Technical College, then in Sydney where in 1944 she began exhibiting with the Contemporary Art Society of New South Wales. Since then she has been in numerous solo and group exhibitions throughout New Zealand. She is a regular exhibitor with the New Zealand Academy of Fine Arts and the Wellington Society of Watercolour Artists.

Her career has included fabric designing, teaching and a spell as president of the Wellington Society of Watercolour Artists (1979-82).

Avis's work can be seen in many collections in New Zealand and overseas.

Flora attained her Diploma of Fine Arts at the University of Canterbury and subsequently taught art in several secondary schools. She studied pottery with a variety of tutors — in New Zealand with Helen Mason and Mirek Smisek, in Germany with Bruno and Ingeborg Assahoff and again in Germany with Wym Mulhentyke from whom she learnt salt glazing. Further experience has been gained through study tours to Japan and Britain where she worked with Kenneth Clark.

She has exhibited for many years with the Wellington Potters and was twice president of this association. She is a foundation member of the New Zealand Potters Society.

Flora first showed her work in 1969, has had a number of solo exhibitions and has been guest artist at exhibitions throughout the country.

9. "Under the Pohutukawa"

Philip Markham
Debbie Pointon

Born in Dunedin. As Head of the Wellington College Art Department for the past fifteen years, Philip takes a keen interest in encouraging young artists.

He has had several solo exhibitions in Wellington and has won an award for painting at the New Zealand Academy of Fine Arts in 1980.

Philip has work in collections in New Zealand and abroad.

Born in Wellington in 1948, Debbie studied graphic design at Wellington Polytechnic, 1967-68. She became involved in pottery in 1977, and has since been the recipient of some of New Zealand's top art and pottery awards, including the Fletcher Brownbuilt Award in 1983. Debbie is a member of both the Watercolour Society and the Potters Association in Wellington.

She exhibits her work extensively throughout New Zealand, has exhibited in Australia and England, and was included in the Craft Council Bowl exhibition that toured Asia in 1981.

Her work can be found in many public and private collections in New Zealand.

10. "Fragments — Clay Fragments, Thought Fragments"

Cherie McLauchlan
Jean Hastedt

Cherie was born in Wellington and is a self-taught artist. She has painted since early childhood and in 1972 won the National Bank Watercolour Award. She has taken part in numerous one-person and group exhibitions and her work is represented in collections throughout New Zealand.

Born Napier. Jean lives in Paraparaumu and is a full-time artist. She worked as a cartographer/graphic artist before being apprenticed to potter Yvonne Rust, in 1974. Establishing her own workshop in 1975, she has since exhibited widely in group and joint exhibitions in New Zealand, Australia, Canada and England. She has received a Fletcher Brownbuilt merit award and was the winner of the BNZ Art Award for porcelain in 1982.

Jean's work is found in many permanent collections throughout the country.

II. "Unanswered Dreams"

Rosemary Mortimer
Gloria Young

Born in Auckland, Rosemary gained a Diploma in Textile Design at Wellington Polytechnic. She also studied printmaking with John Drawbridge. She exhibits regularly with the Academy of Fine Arts and has participated in many group shows. Her first solo exhibition was recently held at the Molesworth Gallery, Wellington.

Gloria was born in Australia in 1941. After coming to live in New Zealand she studied ceramics at the Otago Polytechnic. She received the New Zealand Certificate of Ceramics and the McSkimmings Award for Distinction in Ceramics, and has furthered her expertise by attending workshops in Queensland and Wellington. She first exhibited her work in 1980 and has continued to exhibit in ceramic shows in Wellington, Auckland and Nelson. Her work is represented in the Southland Museum and Art Gallery, Invercargill, the Otago School of Art and the collection of the Auckland Studio Potters. Gloria is currently teaching pottery part-time at Wellington Community Institute.

12. "Tears for Fears"

Vivian Manthel
Patti Meads

Born 1937. Having studied art at Wellington Technical College, Vivian worked for a short period as a commercial artist. For a number of years she has been involved with both theatrical costume design and painting, her commitment to the latter increasing in recent years.

Her work has appeared in a number of Wellington exhibitions including a three person show at the Antipodes Gallery in 1982.

She is president of the Wellington Society of Watercolour Artists, a committee member of the City Art Gallery, an artist member of the Hutt Art Society and a member of the New Zealand Academy of Fine Arts.

Born in Wellington. For many years Patti has been closely involved with both the Wellington Potters Association and the New Zealand Society of Potters, acting as president of the Society from 1970 to 1977. She is an artist member of the New Zealand Academy of Fine Arts. The winner of the Lombard Art Award for High Attainment in Pottery in 1979, she has had work commissioned for New Zealand embassies and has taken part in two overseas touring exhibitions. Her work is represented in public and private collections in New Zealand and abroad.

13. "Collaboration, I, II, III, IV, V"

Adrienne Rewi
Maureen Hunter

Born Morrinsville 1952. Adrienne is a self taught watercolour painter. She began painting in Auckland in 1978 and had her first solo exhibition in Palmerston North one year later. She has since been involved in numerous solo and group exhibitions throughout the North Island.

She was the winner of the Turoa Art Award in 1983.

Born in Wellington, 1941. Maureen took up ceramics twelve years ago and from 1976 has been exhibiting her work in Wellington, Auckland, Cambridge and Nelson. She has been a guest potter at numerous exhibitions and is now a member of the newly-formed Potters Shop Co-operative.

14. "Down to Earth"

Robin Kay
Mirek Smišek

Born in Hawkes Bay in 1919, Robin has been painting in watercolour for over 50 years. He became an artist member of the New Zealand Academy of Fine Arts at the age of eighteen, and has been a regular exhibitor ever since. He has taken part in many group shows, has had several solo exhibitions and has won prizes and merits in watercolour competitions. He is represented in the National Art Gallery, the Alexander Turnbull Library and the National Collection of War Art.

Born on Bohemia, Czechoslovakia, Mirek began potting in 1948 after coming to New Zealand and was among the first to earn his living at his craft in this country. As one of a small group of early potters, his learning was acquired purely by experimentation and the exchange of information between the few. Since then he has been the recipient of several travel awards that have enabled him to study in Japan and England. He has exhibited and is represented in many countries outside New Zealand and has tutored both here and in Australia.

15. "Texture and Light"

Malcolm Warr
Anneke Borren

Born in 1939, Malcolm graduated with a Diploma of Fine Arts (hons) from the University of Auckland in 1960. Since then he has exhibited widely and won a number of awards and commissions. He lives in Waikanae where he has established his own print workshop/gallery. He has exhibited in the United Kingdom, Japan, Hong Kong and Australia and is well represented in private and corporate collections both here and overseas.

Born in Eindhoven, Holland, 1946. Anneke came to New Zealand in 1963 and became a full-time potter in 1965. She has worked extensively in high-fired earthenware, stoneware and porcelain, gaining valuable experience through studying/working with noted potters in the Americas and Europe.

Her work was exhibited at the South Pacific Arts Festivals in Fiji (1972) and Rotorua (1974) and in Government touring exhibitions to foreign countries in 1977. In that same year, she was commissioned by the New Zealand Government to produce ceramics for the new 'Beehive' Building, Wellington.

She has lectured in North and South America and was a guest artist at the Mississippi Crafts International in 1980.

Her pottery is well represented in public and private collections both in New Zealand and abroad.

16. "Black and White and
Bamboo"

Assisted by



Published by Wellington City Art Gallery
September 1984
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