

SIMON KAAN

Simon Kaan (Ngāi Tahu, Chinese, Pākeha, b.1971) is a celebrated painter and print maker who possesses a refined visual language developed over decades, intrinsically tied to his sense of personal genealogy. His practice considers the implications of the intermingling of the Ngāi Tahu and Chinese elements of his heritage, through iconography and processes of making. In a practice that includes painting, printmaking and performance, Kaan is concerned with identity, and with the physical and metaphysical notions of space and time.

Kaan was the first recipient of the Asia:NZ/Creative New Zealand (CNZ) artists residency at Beijing's Red Gate Gallery. The artist often collaborates and exhibits with celebrated New Zealand ceramicist Wi Te Tau Pirika Taepa ONZM (b. 1946, Pōneke Wellington) and was recently featured on the programme 'Fine Arts from ASIA: Art Stories In Aotearoa' with Radio New Zealand, alongside sculptor Yona Lee and interdisciplinary artist Yuki Kihara.

'There has been much written about Simon Kaan's beautifully articulated printed and painted scapes. His soft focus, tranquil palette and finely stacked horizons, peppered with highly emotive and delicately rendered symbols and icons, have become a well-known and much-loved addition to the New Zealand art canon. But there is also a sense that there is something undisclosed: the strands of other, more heavily loaded ideas lurking just below the surface of his serene visions of land and sea.' - Karl Chitham (Ngā Puhī, Te Uriroroi), Director, Dowse Art Museum, Pōneke Wellington.

Kaan's artworks are held in the collection of the Māori Select Committee Rooms, Parliament, Pōneke Wellington; The University of Waikato, Kirikiriroa Hamilton, Lincoln University Art Collection. Between 2023 and 2024 his works Te Au I & Te Au II, and Te Au series I - IX were acquired for the permanent collection at The Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetū. Public commissions include Te Aika, Simon Kaan and Rachael Rakena, 2021, Te Pae convention centre, Otautahi Christchurch, SCAPE Public Art Trust, and the EBB Hotel Façade, Otepoti Dunedin, 2021.

BIOGRAPHY

BORN: 1971, Otepoti Dunedin

LIVES: Otepoti Dunedin

EDUCATION: Diploma of Fine Arts (Hons), Otago Polytechnic

SANDERSON

AWARDS: Artist in Residence, Wanaka Arts Festival (2009); Creative NZ Asia Residency, Beijing, China (2004); Cleveland Art Awards - Winner (2000); Nohoaka Toi Kai Tahu, Kai Tahu Artist in Residence, Otago Polytechnic (2000)

COLLECTIONS: Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu; Carving design for Te Waipounamu, Maori Select Committee Rooms, Parliament, Wellington; The James Wallace Arts Trust, Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland; The University of Waikato, Hamilton, Lincoln University Art Collection

COMMISSIONS: Te Aika, Simon Kaan and Rachael Rakena, 2021, Te Pae convention centre, Otautahi Christchurch, SCAPE Public Art Trust; EBB Hotel Façade, Otepoti Dunedin, 2021.

PUBLIC EXHIBITIONS: Paemanu: Tauraka Toi - A Landing Place, Dunedin Public Art Gallery – group show, Otepoti Dunedin, 11 December 2021 - 25 April 2022; Te ho te whenua - The breath of the land, Corban Estate Arts Centre, Auckland (2013); Kaihaukai, International Symposium on Electronic Arts, IAIA, Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA (2012); Pouwhenua Project, The Festival of Colour, Wanaka (2011); The Asian, Blue Oyster Project Space, Dunedin (2010); The Maui Dynasty, The Suter Te Aratoi o Whakatu, Nelson (2008); Learning from The Knee, Burringa Gallery, Melbourne, Australia (2006); Instant Kiwi, Rear Window, Dunedin Public Art Gallery (2005); Ka Wakatipuraka, Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu (2003); Maramataka: Light Understanding Space, Otago Polytechnic (2000); Te Karaka o Te Tai o Araitauru, curated for the National Educators Art Conference, Temple Gallery, Dunedin (2010)

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY: Rewiti Bridget, 'In the Wake' Art News, No.109 Spring 2023, p.22-23; Stewart Olivia, 'Maumahara: Wi Taepa at Sanderson Contemporary' Ceramics New Zealand, Volume 6 Issue 1 2023 p.6-11; Walsh, John. "Civic good manners," Architecture New Zealand – March 2023 (Issue 2). Posted 19 Apr 2023, accessed 07/12/23, <https://architecturenow.co.nz/articles/civic-good-manners-ebb-dunedin/>; Sharman, Ataria. "Artist Simon Kaan on Finding Inspiration and Tranquillity in Otepoti Dunedin," Broadsheet Online, 05 April 2023, <https://www.broadsheet.com.au/new-zealand/travel/article/artist-simon-kaan-finding-inspiration-tranquillity-otepoti-dunedin/>; Otago Daily Times "Façade bearing Otago Harbour's Image Wins National Award" 6 July 2022, <https://www.odt.co.nz/business/facade-bearing-otago-harbour%E2%80%99s-image-wins-national-award>; Raghukumar, Kadambari. 'Fine Arts from ASIA: Art Stories In Aotearoa' with Radio New Zealand. 26 April 2022. <https://www.rnz.co.nz/programmes/art-stories-in-aotearoa/story/2018834941/asia-art-stories-in-aotearoa-episode-1-fine-arts>; McNamara, Terry. "A subtle sense of identity" The New Zealand Herald, June 2015; Panoho, Rangihira, Maori Art: History, Architecture, Landscape & Theory, Auckland: David Bateman Ltd, 2015; Brown, Warwick, Seen this Century, North Shore City: Random House NZ, 2009; 'Waka and Wave' by Virginia Were, Art News New Zealand, Winter 2004, pp 60-61; 'Balanced Politics: the art of Simon Kaan' by Bridie Lonie, Art New Zealand, No. 136, Summer 2010, pp 40-43; Kete Aronui, Episode 5, Maori TV, 2006 (Documentary); Artsville, TVNZ, 2005 (Documentary); Highfield, Camilla and Peter Smith, Pushing the Boundaries: 11 Contemporary Artists in Aotearoa New Zealand, Wellington: Gilt Edge Publishing, 2004; 'Tactful Flickers' by Christopher Moore, Christchurch Press, Jun 2004; The Big Art Trip by Douglas Lloyd Jenkins and Nick Ward, TVNZ, 2001 (Documentary)

+64 (0) 9 520 0501

info@sanderson.co.nz

www.sanderson.co.nz

Osborne Lane

2-4 Kent Street, Newmarket

Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland