

ZARA DOLAN

Zara Dolan (b.1985 Ireland) is an award winning printmaker based in Ōtautahi Christchurch. Her current series of work involves unique single edition monotype prints created on a traditional print-making press, which has been customised for the artist and is currently the largest printing press in use in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Dolan's work presents a dynamic energy - a suspended moment of lively animation. Drawing on abstract expressionism; the artist's mark making is direct and intuitive, mediated by the application of colour. It is Dolan's intention, through her role as intermediary, that emotive action achieves form.

Dolan's practice hinges on the process-driven nature of monotype printing. The works materialise the very moment before the printing takes place; the artist applying multiple layers of ink onto the printing plate followed by a subtractive process of removing ink from its surface. Once rolled, the image transfers unable to be recreated, which makes every print unique. Each work is titled to encapsulate their creative voyage; reflecting the HEX colour code, press cycles, and tools used within their artistic amalgamation.

Dolan completed her Masters in Fine Arts at the University of Canterbury (ILAM) in 2021. She previously studied a BA (Honours) Degree in Fine Arts at the University of Wales Institute, Cardiff. In 2024 Dolan was the winner of the Merit Award for Printmaking with the New Zealand Painting and Printmaking Awards, presented by the Waikato Society of Arts.

BIOGRAPHY

BORN: Ireland

LIVES: Ōtautahi Christchurch

EDUCATION: Masters in Fine Arts, Ilam School of Fine Arts, 2021 Ōtautahi Christchurch; Post Graduate Certificate in Education (Art & Design), 2009, University of Wales, Institute, Cardiff, Wales, UK; BA(Honours) Degree in Fine Arts, 2008, Sligo Institute of Technology, Sligo, Ireland

AWARDS: Winner of The Print Merit Award in the New Zealand Painting and Print Awards 2024. Public commission, Elevator Door Award - Ilam School of Fine Arts, University of Canterbury, ŌtautahiChristchurch, New Zealand

SANDERSON

PUBLIC EXHIBITIONS: Chaos and Order, The Den, OtautahiChristchurch (2021); Transfiguration, Chambers Art Gallery,Christchurch(2021); Select exhibition- Ilam School of Fine Arts, University of Canterbury, OtautahiChristchurch (2020); Evolution, The Railway Station Museum, Belturbet (2008), Co. Cavan, Ireland; Reflections of a powder room, The Railway Station Museum, Belturbet (2007), Co. Cavan, Ireland

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY: Zara Dolan Interview by Margie Riddiford, Denizen Magazine (Nov 2023) <https://www.thedenizen.co.nz/culture/we-sit-down-with-artist-zara-dolan-as-her-exciting-new-exhibition-tempo-opens-at-sanderson-contemporary/>; 'Chaos & Order' by Tessa McPhee, thedenproject.com, 2021; "Chaos & Order", by Warren Feeney, Art beat newspaper, 2021; Ilam Press, University of Canterbury, 2021; "Evolution", by Linda O' Reilly, The Anglo Celt Newspaper, 2008; "Reflections of a powder room" by Linda O' Reilly, The Anglo Celt Newspaper, 2007

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