

RAY HAYDON

Ray Haydon (b.1950 Aotearoa, New Zealand) is an artist and sculptor with a career spanning more than twenty years. Responding intuitively to space, the artist creates works of refinement and precision. His pieces retain a lyricism and freedom of line that evoke a sense of movement and velocity, as well as celebrate the technical process that goes into their making.

In the same spirit of Constructivists like Naum Gabo, Haydon is constantly testing the variable ways that his sculptures can take on extraordinary new forms. Through an innate understanding of the mediums with which he works, the artist plays with pure materiality and shape to maximise spatial dynamics. His works embody a theatricality and tension in their defiance of gravity and physical illusionism that is both confounding and captivating.

Dr Andrew Paul Wood discusses the importance of the line in Haydon's work; referencing Paul Klee's 'taking a line for a walk' but also highlighting the negative space that Haydon's sculptures delineate.[1] Haydon often describes the 'simple flowing lines' of his sculptures and the space that the works 'create'. He likes the idea of a person walking around his works, the sculpture changing or morphing as it is being viewed.[2]

A celebration of each of his selected materials is evident in Haydon's practice; whether bronze, corten steel, stainless steel, wood, carbon fibre or veneer. The artist actively 'paints the air' with his works, his labors realising into form, colour, and rhythm in a dynamic dance through space.

[1] & [2] Wood, A.P Interview with Haydon, R. (2023, September). Dancing with Materials, ArtZone Magazine, Spring 23, Issue 96, p 56-57.

BIOGRAPHY

BORN: 1950, Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland

LIVES: Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland

COLLECTIONS: Newmarket Arts Trust, The James Wallace Arts Trust

PUBLIC EXHIBITIONS/COMMISSIONS: NZ Sculpture on the Shore Commission for Newmarket Arts Trust, Teed Street Redevelopment, Newmarket (installed 2022); NZ Sculpture OnShore, Tā-

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maki Makaurau Auckland (2023, 2018, 2016, 2008), Shapeshifter, Poneke Wellington (2016, 2014, 2010); St Kentigern College, Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland (2014); NZ Sculpture on the Gulf, Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland (2012); Sculpture Court, Auckland Art Fair (2011); Sculpture in Central Otago, Otago (2007)

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY: 'Ray Haydon: Dancing with Materials' Interview by Dr Andrew Paul Wood, ArtZone Magazine, Issue 96, p.56-57, Sept 2023; "Painting the Air" Home Magazine, p.21, Sept 2023; Mullins, Kate, "Featured Artist: Ray Haydon" NZ House & Garden, Sept 2023; Howard, Laura, Ray Haydon: Sculpture, Auckland: Sanderson Contemporary, 2014; Brown, Warwick, Seen this Century, North Shore City: Random House NZ, 2009; 'Exploring space and absence' by Terry McNamara, The New Zealand Herald, Aug 2009; 'Earthy and Lyrical', Art News New Zealand, Spring 2006, p 128

ARTWORKS FEATURED IN: Denizen Autumn Issue, Spring Issue 2023; Denizen Autumn Issue 2022, The New Zealand Herald, May 2019, May 2017, Jan 2015; House and Garden, Jul 2014, Dec 2012, Mar 2011, Jan 2010; Homestyle New Zealand, Dec/Jan 2014; Home New Zealand, Apr/May 2011, Feb/Mar 2011, Dec/Jan 2011, Apr/May 2008, Dec/Jan 2008; Design Folio: New Zealand's Definitive Design Collection, Issue 4, 2011; Urbis, Luxury Issue, No. 47, 2009; NZ Life and Leisure, Jan/Feb 2008; Reynolds, Patrick and John Walsh, New New Zealand Houses, Auckland: Random House NZ, 2007, pp 12, 164-172; Urbis Landscape, Feb-Apr 2006; Urbis, Summer 2005-2006