

## MOLLY TIMMINS

Molly Timmins (Ngāpuhi, Pākehā, b.1998) is a painter based in Tāmaki Makaurau. Her work explores gardens as both an environmental physical place, and as a painted subject throughout art history.

The artist's practice takes influence from her Ngāpuhi and Pākehā whakapapa, presenting a nuanced conversation between the two. Referencing her own heritage alongside considered painting techniques Timmins navigates the colonial influence over both the garden and painting history, and the way in which women have historically existed in these spaces within Aotearoa in the last century.

'My grandmother owned a Bromeliad business, carried on by my mother today. This matrilineal relationship to exotic plants and colonial gardens provides passage and sensitivity to the garden as a domestic space of peace, identity and comfort. This is balanced by a critique of the way these histories have subjugated women within the limits of convention.

On my father's side I have Māori heritage. My tupuna Moengaherehere signed Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Much like my bromeliad heritage, my Māori whakapapa has informed my work and stands behind my paintings. I am particularly interested in how these two elements of my heritage may contrast, and how by painting endemic foliage alongside synthetic decorations or imported plants this speaks to colonisation and the coexistence of different cultures within Aotearoa and its gardens."

Timmins' 2021 exhibition *Haberdashery* utilised embroidery alongside painting to navigate hierarchies of genre and craft within the art world and explore the idea of 'women's work'. In 2022 her exhibition *Hybrid Gardens* continued these ideas through depictions of familial garden scenes, including imagery of her family's own green houses.

In her exhibition *Rewilding the Garden*, 2024, Timmins pushed her explorations further, presenting the garden abstracted - through wild and jagged dollops of paint, a Bromeliad leaf or Ponga frond emerges, before dissipating back into 'well gardened' brush-marks.

In 2023 Timmins completed a Master of Fine Arts at Whitecliffe College of Arts. Timmins was the winner of the Upstairs gallery Emerging Art Award (2019). She has been a finalist in other numerous awards including the Eden Arts Award (2019), Nelson Emerging Artist Awards (2019), Parkin Drawing Prize (2018) and the Molly Morpeth Canaday Awards (2017).

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## BIOGRAPHY

**LIVES:** Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland

**EDUCATION:** Master of Fine Arts, Whitecliffe College, 2023; Bachelor of Fine Arts, Whitecliffe College, 2019

**EXHIBITIONS:** 'Her heirlooms in my garden' (group show) Corban Estate Art Centre, Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland (2022); 'Hybrid Gardens' Sanderson Contemporary Art, Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland (2022); 'Haberdashery' Sanderson Contemporary Art, Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland (2021)

**AWARDS:** Upstairs gallery Emerging Art Award 2019 WINNER, Eden Arts Award Finalist 2019, Nelson Emerging Artist Awards – Finalist 2019, Emergent-See Art Award – Highly commended 2019, Lake House Arts Takapuna, Parkin Drawing Prize Finalist 2018, Molly Morpeth Canaday Awards – Finalist 2017, Parkin Drawing Prize Finalist 2016, People's Choice Award – Mairangi Arts Centre 2016, Waitakere Arts Trust Exhibition – People's Choice award (for 15-18yr) 2016

**COLLECTIONS:** The Arts House Trust, Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland

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