

Born Te Whanganui-a-Tara, Wellington 1945. Lives in Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland.

Denys Watkins is a highly respected contemporary artist with a career spanning 5 decades. In the early stage of his career, he was widely regarded as one of New Zealand's finest printmakers, a media since superseded by painting and watercolour. Watkins' distinctive and ingenious abstract paintings show a keen fascination and curiosity about the world. While lately his attentions have focused more on environmental concerns, over his career he has drawn on a wide visual encyclopaedia of cultural references, taking source inspiration from any area deemed relevant or necessary to a particular composition or series. These include abstractions of coral; billowing mushroom clouds; Hindu Monkey Gods; the tangled roots of orchid plants; and an obscure lyric from a 1970s song. Watkins taught as a senior lecturer at Elam School of Fine Arts from 1980-2011 and his work is held in several major collections throughout Australasia. He began his studies at the Wellington Polytechnic School of Design from 1962-64, and then in London at both the Central School of Art in 1967, and the Royal College of Art from 1968-70. He has been awarded multiple scholarships throughout his career, and was the recipient of the Artist in Residence programme at the Canberra School of Art in 1985, and the Sanskriti Foundation Residency in India, 2003. Recent exhibitions include a retrospective of his paintings from 2004 — 2016, *Dynamo Hum*, at COCA, Christchurch, Gus Fisher, Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland, and the Sarjeant gallery Whanganui.

EDUCATION

Royal College of Art, London, United Kingdom, 1970

Central School of Art and Design, London, United Kingdom, 1967

Wellington School of Design, New Zealand, 1964

TEACHING

Senior Lecturer, Elam School of Fine Arts, University of Auckland, New Zealand: 1980 – 2011

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

2021

If these walls could Talk, Jhana Millers, Te Whanganui-a-Tara, Wellington

2020

Nancy's Big Day Out, Weasel Gallery, Hamilton

2019

Shutter Bug, Watercolours, Jhana Millers, Te Whanganui-a-Tara, Wellington

Dynamo Hum, Sarjeant Gallery, Whanganui

Constructed Colonies, Parlour Projects, Hastings

2018

Kryptonite, Jhana Millers, Te Whanganui-a-Tara, Wellington

Dynamo Hum, COCA, Ōtautahi, Christchurch

Anticlockwise, Ivan Anthony, Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland

Stop the world from spinning, KNULP Gallery, Sydney

2017

Dynamo Hum, Gus Fisher Gallery, Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland

Origin of the Species, Ivan Anthony, Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland

Parlour Projects, Hastings

2016

Painting: A Transtive Space, St Paul St Gallery, AUT University, Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland

2015

Dissolving Empire, Bath Street Gallery, Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland

The Cedar, TSB Wallace Arts Centre, Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland

2014

Prince Philip Movement, RM Gallery, Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland

2013

Fairways and bunkers, 30 Upstairs, Te Whanganui-a-Tara, Wellington

Porous Moonlight, Papakura Art Gallery, Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland

2012

Lost in Space, Bath Street Gallery, Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland

Snakepit, Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland

2010

El-dorado, Bath Street Gallery, Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland

Mary Newtown Gallery, Te Whanganui-a-Tara, Wellington

2008

Outside In, Bath Street Gallery, Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland

2006

OO town, Bath Street Gallery, Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland

2004

Jungle Book, Bath Street Gallery, Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland
Mumbo Jumbo, Janne Land Gallery, Te Whanganui-a-Tara, Wellington

2000

Heavenly Chance, City Gallery, Te Whanganui-a-Tara, Wellington
Water Colours/Lacquers, Avid, Te Whanganui-a-Tara, Wellington

1999

Heavenly Chance, City Gallery, Te Whanganui-a-Tara, Wellington
Big Night Out, Anna Bibby Gallery, Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland
Water Colours/Lacquers, Avid, Te Whanganui-a-Tara, Wellington

1998

Anna Bibby Gallery, Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland

1995

A Very Peculiar Practice, City Gallery, Te Whanganui-a-Tara, Wellington
Stop Making Sense, City Gallery, Te Whanganui-a-Tara, Wellington

1992

Home Made Home, City Gallery, Wellington, Te Whanganui-a-Tara,
1991

Parkland, Hawkes Bay Art Museum

1990

Parkland, Auckland Art Gallery, Tāmaki Makaurau

200 years of Landscape Painting, Auckland Art Gallery, Tāmaki Makaurau
1986

Conten/Context, National Art Gallery, Te Whanganui-a-Tara, Wellington

1976

New Zealand Drawings, Auckland Art Gallery, Tāmaki Makaurau

AWARDS & RESIDENCIES

Sanskriti Kendra Residency, New Delhi, India, 2003

Norsewear Art Award, 2003

Creative New Zealand research grant, 1997

Moët & Chandon Residency, France, 1994

Q.E.II Arts Council Award, 1990, 1988, 1983, 1977

Transfield Prize, 1986

Canberra School of Art Residency, 1985

Waimairi National Print Award, 1982

South Pacific Travelling Arts Scholarship, 1978

National Bank Art Award/Watercolour, 1978

Te Awamutu Drawing Prize, 1975

British Council Scholarship, 1968–1970

ART FAIRS

Hong Kong, 2015

Sydney, 2013

Auckland, 2011, 2016

London, 1989

COLLECTIONS

University of Auckland
Rotorua City Art Gallery
Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa
Govett-Brewster Art Gallery
Sargeant Gallery
Robert McDougall Art Gallery, Christchurch
The Dowse, Lower Hutt
Hocken Library, Dunedin
Chartwell Trust Collection
Manawatu Art Gallery
NZI Collection
Rutherford Trust ECNZ
Department of Internal Affairs
United Modern Masters Collection
Fletcher Challenge Corporate Collection
Australian National Gallery

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHIES

Dynamo Hum: Denys Watkins: Selected Paintings 2004 – 2016, Rim Books, 2017
Contemporary N.Z. Art, 3. Caughey, Gow. David Bateman Ltd, 2002
Contemporary New Zealand Painting, Michael Dunn, Craftsman Press, 1996
100 New Zealand Paintings, Warwick Brown, Godwit Press, 1996
A concise History of New Zealand Painting. Michael Dunn, Auckland University Press, 1991
200 Years of New Zealand Painting, Gil Docking & Michael Dunn, David Bateman Ltd, 1990
New Zealand Art, A Modern Perspective, Elva Bett, Reed Methuen, 1986
Forty Modern New Zealand Paintings, Francis Pound, Penguin, 1985
An Introduction to New Zealand Painting, Gordon H Brown and Hamish Keith Collins