

Lives and works in Whakatū Nelson, New Zealand, he has a Bachelor of Fine Art from the University of Canterbury School of Fine Arts, 1994.

Michael Dell was born on Banks Peninsula in the South Island of New Zealand. He started his art practise by making works on paper and later graduated from the School of Fine Arts at the University of Canterbury in 1994. While in his final year at art school he won the 1993 Cranleigh Barton National Drawing Award. Recently Dell won the 2019 Parkin Drawing Prize, which makes him one of the few artists to win both of this country's premier drawing awards.

Dell is widely recognised for the particular surface quality of his paintings and has work in a number of public collections, including Christchurch City Art Gallery, Auckland University, The Suter Gallery, and the TSB Wallace Arts Trust.

Over the years, Dell has carved out a reputation for his highly sought after Table Still Life drawings and later Still Life paintings. However, around 2014 he had a shift in direction to focus on his combined interest in the natural world and the relationship between modes of representation and abstraction.

Works held in various private and public collections including:

[Christchurch City Art Gallery / Te Puna o Waiwhetū](#)

Waikato Museum of Art and History / Te Whare Taonga o Waikato

The University of Auckland / Waipapa Taumata Rau

The Suter Gallery / Te Aratoi o Whakatū

Te Pūkenya Whanganui

The Arts House Trust

Parkin Drawing Collection

The Kelliher Arts Trust Collection

Ballin Art Collection

National Bank of New Zealand Art Collection

Tokyo Bank

The Aryburn Collection, Tāhuna Queenstown

Awards

[Parkin Drawing Prize, Wellington 2019](#)

Parkin Drawing Prize, Wellington 2017 (Merit)

Cranleigh Barton National Drawing Award, Christchurch 1993

Gallagher Group National Art Award, Hamilton 1990

Gallagher Group National Art Award, Hamilton 1988

Gallagher Group National Art Award, Hamilton 1985 (Merit)

Gallagher Group National Art Award Hamilton 1984

Tauranga National Art Award 1983 (Merit)

Exhibitions

2025 'Above Below / Tempelhofer Feld', The Suter Gallery, Nelson.

2024 'Backlit Fields, Föenander Galleries, Auckland

2024 'Distant Pictures', Ronewa Art Projects, Berlin

2023 'Material Object', Föenander Galleries, Auckland

2022 'Sunday Morning', Föenander Galleries, Auckland

2021 'Dell + Kube', Föenander Galleries, Queenstown

2021 'Late Frequency', Viewfinder Installation, Nelson

2020 Recent Work, Ronewa Art Projects, Berlin

2020 'Even Now', Föenander Galleries, Auckland

2020 'Endless Days', The Suter Gallery, Nelson

2018 'Nature In My Mind', Föenander Galleries, Auckland

2018 'Before/Now', G-Space Gallery, NMIT, Nelson

2016 'Between Nature and Nothing', NKB Gallery, Auckland.

2008 'Surface Nature', Centre of Contemporary Art, Christchurch

2005 'In Between', McPherson Gallery, Auckland

2005 'Paintings & Works on Paper', City Art, Christchurch

2005 'In Between', Peter Rae Gallery, Dunedin

2004 'Recent Work', McPherson Gallery, Auckland

2002 'Recent work', Studio works Gallery, Christchurch
1999 'Drawings', Chartwell Gallery, Artspost, Hamilton
1998 'Drawings', The Drawings Gallery, Auckland
1996 'Drawings from the Inside', Centre of Contemporary Art, Christchurch
1995 'Arranging the Object', Moray Gallery, Dunedin
1993 'Vignettes', Solutions Galley, Dunedin
1993 'Vignettes', C S A Gallery, Christchurch
1992 'Excavation/Extraction', W S A Gallery, Hamilton

Selected Group Exhibitions

2025 Aotearoa Art Fair, Föenander Galleries
2025 'Landscape, Te Kahu o Waipune, Marlborough Art Gallery
2025 'Traces', Ronewa Art Projects, Berlin
2024 'Eternally Temporary', Te Uru, Auckland
2024 'Still Life - In the Old Genre', The Suter Gallery, Nelson
2023 'Night Work', The Suter Gallery, Nelson
2023 Aotearoa Art Fair, Föenander Galleries, Auckland
2022 'Place Holder', The Suter Gallery, Nelson
2022 'Caught in the Briars', Föenander Galleries, Auckland
2021 'Tent', Föenander Galleries, Auckland
2021 Auckland Art Fair, Föenander Galleries, Auckland
2019 Parkin Drawing Prize, NZ Academy of Fine Art Wellington
2019 'Sharks and Still Lives', The Suter Gallery
2017 26th Wallace Art Awards, Wallace Arts Trust Auckland
2017 3 Artists from the Parkin Prize, The Suter Gallery, Nelson
2017 Parkin Drawing Prize, NZ Academy of Fine Art, Wellington
2017 Shades of Nature. Marlborough Public Art Gallery
2017 Canaday Awards, Whakatane Arts Museum
2017 'Solid Air', NKB Gallery Auckland

2016 Worth, Refinery Art Space, Nelson
2009 'WTF', Paul Nache Gallery, Gisborne
2005 'Ape To Zip', Christchurch City Art Gallery
2005 Auckland Art Fair, McPherson Gallery
2005 'Object & Idea', McPherson Gallery, Auckland
2005 'Art Event Fund-Raiser', Christchurch City Art Gallery
2003 'CB Drawing Exhibition', Christchurch City Art Gallery
1999 '100 x 100 x 100', McPherson Gallery Auckland
1998 'Grid', Campbell Grant Galleries, Christchurch
1997 CB Drawing Exhibition, McDougall Art Annex, Christchurch
1997 Group Artists Show, The Lane Gallery Auckland
1996 'Drawing out of Context', Centre of Contemporary Art, Christchurch
1995 'The Print Workshop', Wanganui Polytechnic
1995 'Drawing from Experience', C S A Gallery, Christchurch
1995 'New Printmakers', C S A Gallery, Christchurch
1994 'Draw on the Walls', The Draw, Christchurch 1994 Recent Acquisitions,
Robert McDougall art Gallery, Christchurch
1993 'Print and Paper', McDougall Art Annex, Christchurch
1993 'Print and Paper', Kurashiki Public Art Gallery, Japan
1993 'CB Drawing Exhibition', McDougall Art Annex, Christchurch
1990 National Mutual Art Awards Touring Exhibition

Publications

Endless Days – Michael Dell, The Suter Gallery, Anchor Print 2020
The Collections, Christchurch City Gallery, Spectrum Print 2003
Bulletin 129, The Drawing Collection, Robert McDougall Gallery 2002
A Concise History of Art in Canterbury 1850 – 2000, Robert McDougall Gallery,
Rainbow Print 2000

Selected Art Reviews & Articles.

Baskett, Mark, Art New Zealand, Number 175, 2020

ARTNOW, Charcoal Drawing Wins 2019 Parkin Drawing Prize, 2019

Desmarais, Felix, Drawn Out Success, The Dominion Post, 2019

Nightingale, Melissa, Drawing Prize Turns More Traditional, NZ Herald 2019

Desmarais, Felix, Michael Dell Wins Parkin Drawing Prize, Nelson Mail, 2019

Voon, Claire, When is a Drawing Not a Drawing, Hyprealleryic.com 2017

Meij, Sara, Ghostly Images Wins Prize for Artist, Nelson Mail 2017

Nick Haig, Before/Now, Survey Exhibition Catalogue, NMIT, Nelson, 2017

Ritchie, Judith, Captivated by The Moutere, Nelson Mail 2015

Dingwall, Richard, In Between, Otago Daily Times 2005

Body, Ralph, In Between, The Critic Web 2005

McNamara, T J, Much More Than Luck of The Draw, NZ Herald 2004

Lewis, Geoff, Artist Returns to Hamilton For Exhibition, The Waikato Times, 1999

McEwan Ann, Drawings by Michael Dell, The Waikato Times 1999

McNamara, T J, In a Dark City Art Generates Power, NZ Herald 1998

Usser, Robyn, Intensity and Elegance Underpin Drawings, The Press 1996

Pearson, Alison, Four at The C. S. A., The Press 1993

Ussher, Robyn, Cranleigh Barton Drawing Award, The Press, 1993

Ussher, Robyn, Works on Paper, The Press 1993

Fairburn, G. E., Excavation/Extraction, The Waikato Times 1992