

Artist Bios

Beth Strickland

Beth Strickland is a New Zealand-based visual artist working between Wellington and her studio in Kakanui, North Otago. Her practice centres on contemporary abstraction, with a focus on process-led painting using oil, cold wax and related materials, along with pottery and textile art. Her work reflects an attentiveness to place, rhythm and the physical act of making. Beth has completed formal art training at Massey University, Victoria University & The Learning Connexion, including study in textile design & pottery. Her practice has been shaped by periods living and working both in New Zealand and overseas, contributing to a materially sensitive and reflective approach to abstraction.

Philothea Flynn

Of mixed Ngāti Porou, Ngāti Kahungunu, European, and Australian whakapapa, this Eastbourne-based artist began her jewellery journey in Ubud, Bali, in 2017. Following a significant health scare, she turned to creating jewellery as a vital source of healing and creative focus. Learning from local and international experts, her work is deeply inspired by the natural world and the endless curiosity of the making process. For her, jewellery is more than an accessory for herself and others; it is a way to celebrate life, adorn and appreciate the body, and express a profound gratitude for life through the creation and gifting of jewellery.

Colette O’Kane

Working from her home studio in Oamaru, Colette O’Kane is an Australasian emerging artist and writer. Her art medium of choice is acrylic on canvas. A self-taught artist, Colette learned her craft during her many years as a teacher in several remote Aboriginal regions of Australia’s Northern Territory. Encouraged and inspired by indigenous artists, Lena and Rosie Pwerle, Colette developed several styles, however, it is her vibrant, whimsical, sometimes dream-like art, with which her name has become synonymous. Other inspirations include Friedrich Hundertwasser, Antoni Gaudi and Hayao Miyazaki. As a storyteller, Colette is often invited to speak to audiences, where her interesting, adventurous life and observations are portrayed through her art, poetry and photographs. She is playful by nature, and this invariably shines through everything she does. Colette invites those who view her art to take a moment, relax, and step into her world.