

# Grace Wright

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Wright studied at Elam School of Fine Arts, successfully gaining honours in 2014. “My time at Elam has taught me to think holistically about what it means to make the art I'm making. It seems painting, internationally, is at a stage where concepts like 'lightness', pleasure and beauty are re-surfacing. In terms of inspiration, I'm in love with contemporary New York painting like; Albert Oehlen, David Reed, Alex Katz. Moving closer to home, I look to Dale Frank, Nicola Farquhar and Kirsten Carlin who all have a great sense of colour relationships and material qualities”, says Wright.

Wright also states “Painting as 'visual pleasure', is a concept lying at the heart of my work”. Readily apparent are luscious, organic forms that ooze and flow sensually around each other, like honey pouring out of a bottle. The forms are derived from a sense of “bodili-ness” that is abstract, yet suggestive of the interior and exterior body. Like pieces of a puzzle, these voluptuous, flowing gestures are pleasurable in the way they fit together to complete something. A sense of 'dynamic-ness' is created by the use of both tense and harmonious colour combinations. Passionate bright, primary colours are held in tension with greys and pastel tones. This surprising contrast optically pulls the viewer in and out of the painting, contributing to a sense of beauty by contrast with the 'ugly’.

“Conceptual lightness” as a contemporary idea is also something that interests Wright. These are playful works that don't attempt to address any directly political or conceptual meaning. Rather, they are about the pleasure of viewing painting in a material and visual sense. Referencing “bodiliness” and oozing, flowing forms seem an exciting way of approaching the history of abstraction.



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23 YEARS  
AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

## QUALIFICATIONS

**2011-2014**

BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS (Honours), ELAM SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS,  
University of Auckland, New Zealand

**2011-2012**

ASSOCIATE OF TRINITY COLLEGE LONDON (ATCL), in Piano  
Performance, New Zealand

REPRESENTED BY

WARWICK HENDERSON GALLERY, Auckland NZ

## SOLO SHOWS

**2015**

LOOP, Warwick Henderson Gallery, Auckland NZ

LUSH, Studio One, Auckland NZ

## GROUP SHOWS

**2015**

Nothing Comes From Nothing , Zeus Gallery (and travelling to  
Waikato University Gallery, Hamilton, in early 2016), Tauranga NZ  
Adaption : New Artists in a New Space , Warwick Henderson,  
Auckland NZ

New Works, New Walls, Zeus Gallery, Tauranga NZ

Colour My Winter, Warwick Henderson, Auckland NZ

INITIATE[s] New Grads, Lake House Arts, Auckland NZ

**2014**

ELAM GRAD SHOW, University of Auckland NZ

Emergence: A Painting Show , Projectspace Gallery, Elam School of  
Fine Arts, Auckland NZ

OPEN STUDIO, Elam School of Fine Arts, Auckland NZ

## AWARDS

**2015 & 2016**

NZ PAINTING & PRINTMAKING AWARD, Waikato Arts Festival NZ, finalist

MOLLY MORPETH CANADAY ART AWARD, Whakatane NZ, finalist

**2014**

ELAM ART SCHOLARSHIP

DENISE GERARD SCHOLARSHIP

**2013**

HENRIETTA & LOLA ANNE TUNBRIDGE WATERCOLOUR SCHOLARSHIP,  
finalist

## REVIEWS

'DEEP SWEEPS' in NZ HOUSE & GARDEN, Warwick Brown, August 2015  
issue

'GRACE AND HER VOLUPTUOUS ART EXHIBITION' in BAY OF PLENTY  
TIMES VIBE MAGAZINE, Thursday 20 August 2015