

ARTIS

G A L L E R Y

PAMELA WOLFE

Biography

Pamela Wolfe was born in England in 1950 and immigrated to New Zealand at the age of three. She studied at Elam School Fine Arts, Auckland University from 1968 to 1971, graduating with a Diploma of Fine Arts.

After completing her studies Wolfe moved to Christchurch with her husband Richard and daughter Emily, where she had her first solo exhibition at the Labyrinth Gallery in 1976.

Wolfe and her family returned to Auckland in 1977, and she has continued to exhibit regularly (both in solo and group shows) over the past forty years. Over her long career, she has varied her subject matter from highly coloured representations of the local landscape to detailed still-life studies.

Wolfe's current practice is focused on creating richly textured paintings of flowers over their life cycles, observing the changes that occur from bud to decay. The subtle technique in which Wolfe portrays the fragility of these specimens has been honed over many years and highlights the transient nature of beauty.

The contrast of the sumptuous blooms and foliage against the dark and textured backgrounds from which they emerge, gives an extravagant sensuality to the works and references Dutch still-life painting of the 17th century. The motif is also suggestive of the rich soil from where the delicate blossoms begin their lives. Wolfe enlarges the flowers to fill the picture plane and enhances the feeling of seeing these blooms from a butterfly's perspective.

Wolfe's work can be found in corporate, private and public collections throughout New Zealand. Pamela is also a successful book illustrator and has worked on number of books with her husband, writer Richard Wolfe.

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PAMELA WOLFE CV

ACADEMIC HISTORY

1969 - 1971 Elam School of Fine Arts, University of Auckland

PRIZES, AWARDS & RESIDENCIES

2010 Team McMillan BMW Art Award, Auckland
1987 Team McMillan BMW Art Award, Auckland
1985 Nola Holmwood Memorial Portrait prize, Auckland Society of Arts
1974 Merit Award, Tokoroa Painting Award

SELECTED COLLECTIONS & COMMISSIONS

Robert McDougall Art Gallery, Christchurch
United Building Society Masters Collection
Simpson Grierson Butler White, Auckland
Reserve Bank, Wellington
Department of Conservation, Wellington
Auckland Girls' Grammar School
Railways Corporation
Postbank, Auckland
Mercy Hospital, Auckland
Greenpeace New Zealand Artists Collection
Fletcher Challenge
Air New Zealand (Los Angeles, Singapore, Auckland)
Starship Children's Hospital
Auckland Regional Council
Woodford House, Havelock North
New Zealand High Commission, Singapore
Auckland Casino Hotel (fabric design)
Telecom Phonecard Artists Collection
Cancer Society

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SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2015 *Savage Beauty*, ARTIS Gallery, Auckland
2014 *Penumbra*, ARTIS Gallery, Auckland
2012 *Tempus Fugit*, ARTIS Gallery, Auckland
2011 *Fertile Grounds*, ARTIS Gallery, Auckland
2010 *Nature Study*, ARTIS Gallery, Auckland
2009 *Painting 09*, ARTIS Gallery, Auckland
2008 *Natural Selection*, ARTIS Gallery, Auckland
2006 *Capturing Perfect Beauty* ARTIS Gallery, Auckland
2005 *Recent Painting*, Dobson Bashford Gallery, Christchurch
2004 *Recent Painting*, ARTIS Gallery, Auckland
2003 *Recent Painting*, ARTIS Gallery, Auckland
1999 *Painting 1999*, ARTIS Gallery Auckland
1998 *Painting 1998*, ARTIS Gallery, Auckland
1995 *Grandiflora*, Lane Gallery, Auckland
1993 *Recent Work*, Lane Gallery, Auckland
1992 *Recent Paintings*, PKF Gallery, Christchurch
1991 *Birds of Paradise*, Portfolio Gallery, Auckland
Wetlands & Headlands, 33 1/3 Gallery, Wellington
1990 *Wings and Water*, RKS Art, Auckland
1989 33 1/3 Gallery, Wellington
Portfolio Gallery, Auckland
1988 Portfolio Gallery, Auckland
From the South Pacific, RKS Art, Auckland
1987 *Scenes of Auckland*, RKS Art, Auckland
33 1/3 Gallery, Wellington
1984 *Colouring In*, Last & First Café, Auckland
1983 *A Piece of Cake*, Last & First Café, Auckland
1982 *Painting the Town*, RKS Art, Auckland
1979 Outreach Gallery, Auckland
1977 Brooke Gifford Gallery, Christchurch
1976 Labyrinth Gallery, Christchurch

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SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2013 *Inflorescence* – Pamela Wolfe & Hamish Foote
- 2013 ARTIS at Auckland Art Fair
- 2012 Summer Exhibition ARTIS Gallery Auckland
- 2011 ARTIS at Auckland Art Fair
- 2009 ARTIS at Auckland Art Fair
- 2007 ARTIS at Auckland Art Fair
- 2005 *20 Days in Bloom*, ARTIS Gallery, Auckland
- 2004 *Summer Exhibition*, ARTIS Gallery, Auckland
- 2001 *Pamela Wolfe & Elizabeth Thomson*, ARTIS Gallery, Auckland

Children's Book Illustration

(all books written by Richard Wolfe)

- 1997 *Midnight at the Museum*, Scholastic New Zealand.
Finalist, New Zealand Post Children's Book Awards 1998
- 1999 *Mouse Opera*, Scholastic New Zealand.
Finalist, New Zealand Post Children's Book Awards 2000
- 2000 *Mouse Hotel*, Random House New Zealand.
Included in "The White Ravens 2001: A selection of international Children's & Youth Literature exhibited at the Bologna Children's Book Fair 2001.
- 2001 *Walter's Planet*, Random House New Zealand.
- 2003 *Mouse on the Moon*, Scholastic New Zealand.
Finalist, Russell Clark Awards 2004