

# TERRY STRINGER

b. 1946, lives Auckland



Venus and Cupid (2012)

Terry Stringer is widely recognised as one of New Zealand's leading sculptors. While well known due to his public installations, most of Stringer's work is done on a smaller domestic scale. "He moulds sensuous forms out of clay, smoothly blending the rhythms of curves into graceful flowing outlines and harmonious counterpoint, which is then fixed in bronze."(1) The softness of the wax patina finish, the perspective plays and dimensionality contrasts are fundamental to Stringer "consciously testing the dividing line between the real and the illusory, and challenging the nature of 'sculpture,' 'painting,' 'drawing,' and 'architecture.'"(2)

Stringer draws influence from many areas of his life, noting that when he was young he would "stare at sepia photographs of classical art in an encyclopaedia.... So 'Great Art' reached down to me in New Zealand. This is the past that my sculpture remembers. We are all made whole out of the parts of our childhoods... I seek to tell my story in fragments." (3) Due to a quirk in his eyesight, Stringer finds it hard to judge depth and he sees everything very flatly: 'I have to deduce depth logically, from visual clues'. This aberration, this twist in the way he sees things, becomes a trigger for his art."(4)

Terry Stringer was born in Cornwall, England, in 1946. He received a Diploma of Fine Arts, Elam School of Fine Arts, University of Auckland, 1967. In the 1980s Stringer "emerged as one of New Zealand's best figurative sculptors. He doesn't break rules, he transforms them. Weight-shifter, shape-shifter, he sets the scene... His tricks of perception have become a phenomenological game for one player: you the observer in an uncertain universe. His sculptures flick in and out of focus. To get the best out of them, you have to move around them."(5)

Stringer is represented in all major public and many private New Zealand collections. Amongst his public commissions are his Aotea Square Water Sculpture, Auckland 1979; *Grand Head*, Wellington 1987; *Risen Christ*, Cathedral Square, Christchurch 1999/2000; *The World Grasped*, New Market, Auckland 2006; and *Dance to the Music of Time*, Nelson, 2012. In the 2013 New Years Honours Stringer was appointed an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to sculpture.

1. David Eggleton, "Shape Shifter: Sculptor Terry Stringer Makes Works of Ambiguous Beauty," *New Zealand Listener*, October 3, 1998.
2. Priscilla Pitts, *Contemporary New Zealand Sculpture: Themes and Issues*, David Bateman Ltd, Auckland, 1998.
3. Artist Statement accompanying *Personal Museum* exhibition, 1998.
4. David Eggleton, "Shape Shifter: Sculptor Terry Stringer Makes Works of Ambiguous Beauty," *New Zealand Listener*, October 3, 1998.
5. David Eggleton, "Shape Shifter: Sculptor Terry Stringer Makes Works of Ambiguous Beauty," *New Zealand Listener*, October 3, 1998.

# TERRY STRINGER

b. 1946, lives Auckland



The Performer (2016)



Model with Sculptors Hands (2015)



Cutaway Head of a Man (2015)

## EDUCATION

1967 Diploma of Fine Arts, Elam School of Fine Arts, University of Auckland

## SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2017 *That Certain Smile*, Milford Galleries Dunedin
- 2016 *Model with the Sculptor's Hands*, Artis Gallery, Auckland  
*Sculpture 2016: Bronze*, Brenda May Gallery, NSW, Australia  
*Terry Stringer*, Robin Gibson Gallery, Sydney, Australia
- 2015 *Growing up in the 1960s and Other Stories*, milford galleries Queenstown  
*Lois Whites's Manikin and Other Stories*, Brooke Gifford Gallery, Christchurch
- 2014 *Landscape of the Head*, Tauranga Art Gallery, Tauranga  
*Looking Back and Other Stories*, Robin Gibson Gallery, Sydney Australia
- 2013 *Face / Space*, Pataka Art + Museum, Porirua  
*Transfigured Heads*, The Pah Homestead, TSB Wallace Arts Centre, Auckland  
*Landscape of the Head*, Tauranga City Art Gallery, Tauranga
- 2011 *Figure & Ground*, Robin Gibson Gallery, Sydney, Australia
- 2010 *Figure in a Landscape*, Beppu Wiarda Gallery, Portland, United States of America
- 2009 *A Secret Room in the Head*, Koru Contemporary Art, Hong Kong  
*Figure in a Landscape*, Brooke Gifford Gallery, Christchurch
- 2008 *Head Room*, Robin Gibson Gallery, Sydney, Australia  
*Head Room*, Beppu Wiarda Gallery, Portland, United States of America
- 2006 *About Face*, Black Barn Gallery, Hawkes Bay  
*A Life in Sculpture*, Webbs, Auckland  
*Our Home is Our Childhood*, Robin Gibson Gallery, Sydney, Australia  
*Our Home is Our Childhood*, Beppu Wiarda Gallery, Portland, United States of America
- 2005 *The Head is a Theatre of Dreams*, Mark Woolley Gallery, Portland, United States of America
- 2004 *The Architecture of Memory*, Brooke Gifford Gallery, Christchurch
- 2003 *Going Home*, Milford Galleries Dunedin  
*The Privileged Eye*, Robin Gibson Gallery, Sydney, Australia
- 2002 *A Little Theatre Work for the Hands*, Robin Gibson Gallery, Sydney, Australia  
*A Little Theatre Work for the Hands*, Simmons Gallery, London, United Kingdom  
*A Little Theatre Work for the Hands*, Janna Land Gallery, Wellington
- 2001 *Living in my Head*, Te Tuhi – The Mark, Auckland  
*A Temple in the Head*, Milford Galleries Dunedin  
*The Palace of the Mind*, Brooke Gifford Gallery, Christchurch; FHE Gallery, Auckland

- 1999 *Behind the Studio Screen*, Janne Land Gallery, Wellington  
 1998 *Hidden Image*, Milford Galleries Dunedin  
*Personal Museum*, Bishop Suter Gallery, Nelson  
*Personal Museum*, Hawkes Bay Exhibition Centre, Napier  
 1996 *All We Are One Body*, Anna Bibby Gallery, Auckland  
 1994 Hawkes Bay Museum, Napier  
 1989 *Figures in a Landscape*, Fisher Gallery, Auckland  
 1986 *Aspects of Recent NZ Art, Sculpture 1*, Auckland City Art Gallery, Auckland  
 1982 *Wrap Around Sculpture*, National Art Gallery, Wellington  
*Seen*, Denis Cohn Gallery, Auckland  
*Ankrum Galleries*, Los Angeles, United States of America  
*Recent Works*, Rotorua City Gallery, Rotorua  
 1981 *Living Room*, Manawatu Art Gallery, Palmerston North  
*Living Room*, Sarjeant Gallery, Wanganui  
*Living Room*, Dowse Art Gallery, Lower Hutt  
 1978 *Bronzes and Painted Wooden Sculpture*, Waikato Art Museum, Hamilton

### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2017 *The Royal Queenstown Easter Show*, milford galleries queenstown  
 2016 *Spring Catalogue*, milford galleries queenstown  
*Regroup Reflect Regenerate: Medal Artists of New Zealand 25th Anniversary Exhibition*,  
 Canterbury Museum, Christchurch  
*Staging Post*, milford galleries queenstown  
*Artis Group Exhibition*, Artis Gallery, Auckland  
*The Royal Queenstown Easter Show*, milford galleries queenstown  
 2015-16 *Art at Carrick*, Carrick Winery, Central Otago  
 2015 *Summer Selection*, Artis Gallery, Auckland  
*Studio 18D: Part 2*, Milford Galleries Dunedin  
*The Review*, milford galleries queenstown  
*Figurative Form*, Waiheke Community Art Gallery  
 2014 *Significant Works*, Milford Galleries Dunedin  
 2012 *The Clipboard Show*, Robin Gibson Gallery, Sydney Australia  
*Sculpture 24*, Robin Gibson Gallery, Sydney Australia  
 2011-2012 *Sculpture in the Gardens*, Auckland Botanic Gardens, Auckland  
 2011 *Black Bronzes + Blue Objects*, Thermostat Art Gallery, Palmerston North  
*Sculpture 23*, Robin Gibson Gallery, Sydney Australia  
*Lust*, Brenda May Gallery Sydney, Australia  
 2010 *The Naked and the Nude*, Christchurch Art Gallery, Christchurch  
 2009 *Sculpture by the Sea*, Bondi, Australia  
*Small is the New Big*, Robin Gibson Gallery, Sydney Australia  
 2007 *Body Works*, Robin Gibson Gallery, Sydney Australia  
 2006 *Shapeshifter*, New Zealand International Arts Festival, Wellington  
 2005 *Sculpture on the Gulf*, Waiheke Island, Auckland  
*Summer Exhibition*, Royal Academy of Art, London, United Kingdom  
 2004 *Shapeshifter*, New Zealand International Arts Festival, Wellington  
 2003 *Connectedness*, Hawkes Bay Museum, Napier  
 2002 *Pacific Rim*, Simmons Gallery, London, United Kingdom  
 2001 *Pacific Rim*, McPherson Gallery, Auckland  
 1999 *The Shrine*, Lopdell House Gallery, Auckland (and tour)  
*Volume and Form*, Singapore  
*Face to Face*, Auckland City Art Gallery, Auckland  
 1998 *(Re)visioning the Real*, Lopdell House Gallery, Auckland (and tour)  
 1995 *The Persuasion of the Real*, Hawkes Bay Museum, Napier (and tour)  
 1994 *Little Jewels*, Arts Marketing Board, Wellington  
 1991 *Inheritance*, Wellington City Art Gallery, Wellington  
 1990 *Medallions 90*, 22<sup>nd</sup> Congress of International Medal Art, Helsinki, Finland  
 1981 *Recent Acquisitions, New Zealand Art*, Auckland City Art Gallery  
 1978 *Mildura Sculpture Triennial*, Mildura, Australia

## SELECTED COMMISSIONS

- 2013 Sacred Heart College, Auckland  
2011 Nelson City Gateway Sculpture Commission  
*The Art of Sculpture*, Campbell Parade, Bondi, Sydney, Australia  
2010 *Mountain Fountain*, The Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, Parnell, Auckland  
2010 *Body Language*, Palmerston North Public Sculpture Trust  
2006 *The World Grasped*, Newmarket, Auckland  
*The Kawau Thinks of Queen Victoria*, Selwyn College, Auckland  
2005 *The Fates*, Peter Craze Memorial, Ealing, London, United Kingdom  
2003 *Faith, Hope, and Love*, St Cuthbert's College, Auckland  
1999 *Risen Christ*, Cathedral Square, Christchurch  
1991 *Kiri Te Kanawa*, Aotea Centre, Auckland  
1988 *White Lightning*, Tutanekai Mall, Rotorua  
1987 *Grand Head*, Victoria Street, Wellington  
1979 Aotea Square Water Sculpture, Auckland

## AWARDS

- 2003 ONZM for services to sculpture, New Years Honours list  
2000 Portrait Sculpture Award, New Zealand Portrait Gallery, Wellington  
1977 QE II Arts Council Awards

## SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2013 Stocker, Mark, 'The Many Faces of Terry Stringer', *The Medal*, No 63, 2013  
Stocker, Mark, 'Late Bronze Age Figure: A Conversation with Terry Stringer', *Art New Zealand*, No 145, Autumn 2013  
2010 *Terry Stringer: A Secret Room in the Head*, catalogue, Koru Contemporary Art, Hong Kong  
2006 Daly-Peoples, John, 'Auckland Outside Art', *National Business Review*, 5 May 2006  
1999 Woodward, Robin, 'The Artist's Hand and Eye', *Art New Zealand*, No 89, Summer 1998-1999  
1998 Eggleton, David, 'Shape Shifter', *Listener*, 3 October, 1998  
1996 Brown, Warwick, *Another 100 New Zealand Artists*, Godwit, Auckland  
1994 Ihimaera, Witi and Terry Stringer, *Mask and Mirror*, catalogue, IWA/POI, Auckland



A Collage of Features (Maquette) (2016)