



**BLACK DOOR GALLERY**  
CONTEMPORARY NEW ZEALAND ART AND DESIGN

## Artist Bio

# Maria Kemp, NZ

## Painting

Dunedin based artist Maria Kemp produces contemporary landscape paintings that speak to the scenery distinct to the inland region of southern New Zealand. The regions of Otago, from the peninsula to central Otago have been the focus of Kemp's landscape paintings for the past several years. Many of the landscapes are centred around childhood memories for the artist and are symbolic of the place she calls home. Kemp is fascinated by the natural patterning found in the physical world and how this can become a metaphor for the way elements in our own lives are woven together.

Kemp's work can be identified by the use of simplified regions of colour, like ribbons, which come to portray the layers and contours of land masses. Harmonious palettes seem to shimmer like the light effects seen on the powerful vistas of this area. The works are reminiscent of layers of a weaving or the folds of a tapestry. As the artist describes, "the inspiration for this approach came from a Psalm that describes the earth being stretched out like fabric, with patterns and folds like garments."

Kemp paints in oil on board in tonal planes, placing the focus on the colour and form, her compositions are considered and enhanced by beautiful framing. Her paintings are at times fragmented and dissected offering further exploration of the notion of patterning in nature.

# Maria Kemp, NZ

Painting

## **PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COLLECTIONS**

Wellington Public Library  
Dunedin City Council  
Auckland Dental School  
Knox College, Dunedin  
Mercy Hospital, Dunedin

## **SIGNIFICANT COMMISSIONS**

**2011** Dunedin International Airport, Commission, Permanent Collection

## **AWARDS**

**2011** Otago Art Society Annual Exhibition, First Prize  
**1996** Telecom Art Awards, First Prize  
**1994** Otago Art Society Annual Art Awards, People's Choice winner

## **SELECT EXHIBITION HISTORY**

<b>2018</b>	Group Exhibition	<i>Seize the Light</i> , Black Door Gallery
<b>2016</b>	Solo Exhibition	<i>Land Tapestry</i> , Artbay, Queenstown
<b>2016</b>	Solo Exhibition	<i>Overview</i> , Gallery De Novo, Dunedin
<b>2014</b>	Solo Exhibition	<i>Fabric Earth</i> , Gallery De Novo, Dunedin
<b>2012</b>	Solo Exhibition	<i>Land Fabric</i> , Gallery De Novo, Dunedin
<b>2009</b>	Group Exhibition	<i>Group of Three</i> , The Artist Room, Dunedin
<b>2008</b>	Solo Exhibition	<i>Identity</i> , The Artist Room, Dunedin
<b>2007</b>	Solo Exhibition	<i>The Folded Land</i> , Peter Rae Gallery
<b>2005</b>	Solo Exhibition	<i>Fabricated Landscapes</i> , Rosslyn Gallery
<b>2003</b>	Solo Exhibition	<i>23rd Psalm- Landscape Series</i> , Rosslyn Gallery
<b>2002</b>	Solo Exhibition	<i>Continuous Land Series</i> , Rosslyn Gallery
<b>2000</b>	Solo Exhibition	<i>Mortal Man</i> , Rosslyn Gallery
<b>1995</b>	Solo Exhibition	<i>Women and Children</i> , Moray Gallery
<b>1992</b>	Group Exhibition	<i>The Wind in the Fences- Artists respond to James K Baxter</i> , Dunedin Public Art Gallery
<b>1990</b>	Solo Exhibition	<i>Studies- Pencil drawings</i> , Rosslyn Gallery

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Otago Art Society