

AUCKLAND CITY ART GALLERY FESTIVAL EXHIBITION 1968
Recent New Zealand Sculpture

It is two years since the Auckland City Art Gallery presented an exhibition of contemporary New Zealand sculpture. By recalling the earlier exhibition we see that some of our sculptors are continuing with their earlier forms, others are investigating new fields of plastic expression and again, there are some whose work was not seen in the 1966 exhibition.

What is the purpose of sculpture as an art form? Henry Moore said the purpose of his sculpture was "To help us understand the shape of things".

Fundamentally of course, a sculpture is very much a solid object existing in space. But it can awaken certain notions in the mind of the person who is looking at it. However, the germinal idea of those notions needs to already exist in the mind of the viewer in order to arouse some kind of response. This is probably the reason why some pieces of sculpture "speak" strongly to certain people but not to others. The backgrounds of experience vary so much from person to person.

How far then is it possible to go towards "understanding the shape of things", and in explaining the quality of a piece of sculpture by describing and analysing its physical properties? Words serve well to refer to the physical appearance of a piece of sculpture but they can be of dubious value when they are used to refer to its aesthetic quality.

The difficulty is that sculpture can be described and analysed in words that have existing "things" as points of reference - but as soon as we talk of a "quality" we are not talking about a "thing" but a value. Sculpture exists in the physical world; values exist in the minds of men. So when an experience of aesthetic value is stimulated by a physical object created by man such as a piece of sculpture we begin to regard it as a work of art. But what one person regards as being a "work of art" another person often does not.

The only hope we have of establishing sculpture as a vital form of communication operating on high levels of performance, is to help people become more experienced in making value judgements (the task of our liberal educators including galleries) and to expect that our sculptors will make articulate statements in the form of works of art which have meaning and value. Surely these responsibilities fall on the collective shoulders of both creative artists and informed laymen.

We thank the sculptors for their work and the New Zealand Society of Sculptors and Associates for its help in forming this exhibition.

PAUL BEADLE

Born Hungerford, England 1917

1 SEVEN AGES OF MAN

bronze h 12

2 PORGY AND BESS

bronze h 7 $\frac{3}{4}$

3 ROBERT ELLIS

bronze h 8 $\frac{1}{2}$

4 FISHERMANS ROCK

bronze h 4 $\frac{1}{2}$

5 SACRED HEART CROSSING

bronze h 3 $\frac{1}{2}$

6 MEDITERRANEAN

bronze h 4 $\frac{3}{4}$

GRAHAM BRETT

Born Auckland, 1942

7 WOMAN 4

bronze h 9 $\frac{1}{2}$

8 WOMAN 5

bronze h 10

9 WOMAN 6

bronze h 10

BETTY CUTCHER

Born Newcastle, N.S.W. 1924

10 THE WEB

bronze h 5 $\frac{1}{4}$

11 HERON

bronze h 15

12 WEDDING FEAST

bronze h 10

ALISON DUFF

Born Invercargill 1914

13 SCULPTURE FOR CONCRETE

concrete and steel h 91

14 ST FRANCIS AND ST CLAIR

cement fondu h 36

15 INDOOR FOUNTAIN

cement h 48

DARCY LANGE

Born New Plymouth 1946

16 FORMALITY II

painted steel h 36

17 FORMALITY III

painted steel h 72

18 EXTENDED FORMALITY I

painted steel h 84

MILAN MRKUSICH

Born Dargaville 1925

19 PAINTED RELIEF NO. 1

board, p.v.a. and oil h 15½

20 PAINTED RELIEF NO. 4

board, p.v.a. and oil h 15½

21 PAINTED RELIEF

board, p.v.a. and oil h 24

TERRY POWELL

Born England 1944

22 THE THINGS I THOUGHT IT HAD BEEN

metal, plastic, fabric, paint h 6

23 PLEASE, PLEASE ME

metal, plastic, fabric, paint h 36

24 WHEN I WAS A LAD JUST LIKE MY DAD

metal, plastic, fabric, paint h 36

25 SILVER PANEL NO TITLE

metal, plastic, fabric, paint h 36

26 FORMS WILL ACCOMPANY THIS NAME AND ADDRESS

metal plastic, fabric paint h 48

LYNDON SMITH

Born Australia 1927

27 GROUP 6

bronze h 7

28 SEATED FIGURE

bronze h 14

29 RELIEF

bronze h 18

MARTE SZIRMAY

Born Budapest 1946

30 NO. 5 OF SERIES

aluminium h 8

GREER TWISS

Born Auckland 1937

31 WALKERS

polychromatic bronze h 60

32 FROZEN FRAME I

polychromatic fibreglass h 54

ARNOLD WILSON

Born Ruatoki, Bay of Plenty 1928

33 TAMATI

cement fondu h 12

34 TANE MAHUTA II

totara h 47