



Auckland City Art Gallery
Artists Project No 4
June 1983

Tony Tomison
"Bringing back the Scattered"



Reason for the show. The slowness of my work means I haven't had a one man show in Auckland for over two years. The last one was in Wellington. Since then I've had to sell singly, from home and from group shows. My paint brushes tell me they're talking to the whole public, not just to those who can afford to take the pictures home. So, given the freedom of a capitalist patronage system, thanks to owners who have nevertheless lent my pictures back to the public for this show.

St. Paul's College Mural. Murals have naturally been an aim of my work. This is my first, started early last year on a P.E.P. scheme supervised by "Art Work." There were a number of us, finding our own sites around Ponsonby. I chose the College: its close to my place, and its involved in the local Polynesian communities. Being keen, the College met costs of materials and the handyman there carpentered the backing on which I laid the hessian. It required lots of coats of surfacing, and I could not meet the 6 months deadline. My paint brushes said they were not interested in flat-pattern decoration, they wanted to do a big picture, and they got me to cheerfully ignore all outside pressures until I got the image we wanted. This image was the fourth in a long haul of scrubbing down and starting again.

Glaz. On fieldwork I often stay with potters, and make little things that I leave behind for them to glaze next time they're firing. The ones on the cover were done at Graeme North's, Urquhart's Bay, Yvonne Slust's, Parua Bay, and Barry Brickell's, Driving Creek.



Self-portrait. 1981.

I was born in Christchurch, 1939 and went to Ilam art school, taking sculpture, 1958 -1960. I have had much support from Q.E.2 over the years. I am continuing my collaboration with regional archaeologists, in the study of Maori rock-art sites.