

Modern Women Flight of Time

Edited by Julia Waite

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Women artists at the vanguard of modernism

Modern Women: Flight of Time is a spirited new take on a chapter in the story of New Zealand modern art – one that centres women artists for the first time. Social and cultural change during the 20th century altered past ways of life, creating opportunities for women to ‘lead all sorts of lives’, as Katherine Mansfield put it.



This landmark publication, which accompanies a substantial exhibition of the same name at Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki, explores the vital role that women played in modern art and compellingly reassesses previous ideas about this period of New Zealand art.

Profiling 44 trailblazing artists, *Modern Women: Flight of Time* is beautifully illustrated with full-colour images of over 120 paintings, sculptures, textiles and works on paper. Curator and editor Julia Waite’s introductory essay, ‘Once More, with Feeling’, is accompanied by captivating artist profiles written by art and cultural historians, filmmakers, artists, fiction writers and curators.

The publication focuses on New Zealand modernist art made between 1920 and 1970, including the work of Māori artists such as Mere Harrison Lodge, Elizabeth Ellis and Pauline Yearbury, as well as the work of international luminaries Eileen Agar, Barbara Hepworth, Winifred Knights, Natalia Goncharova and others to illustrate the similar sensibilities which extended beyond national boundaries and were fuelled by shared experiences and new freedoms.

Bringing together an ensemble cast of familiar faces and artists who have been neglected in art history, *Modern Women: Flight of Time* offers an alternative more unruly history of the development of modern art in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Waite comments: ‘*Modern Women: Flight of Time* illuminates the often-hidden contributions of women artists to modern art. It invites readers into a theatrical world of performance and characterisation to appreciate the dramatic visuality and diversity of artistic expression during a period of profound social change.’

Artists profiled: A Lois White / Adele Younghusband / Eileen Mayo / Kittie Roberts / Winifred Knights / Laura Knight / Pauline Yearbury / Tanya Ashken / Mina Arndt / Edith Collier / Maud Sherwood / Anne Estelle Rice / Natalia Goncharova / Frances Hodgkins / Eileen Agar / Jenny Campbell / Anne Hamblett / Doris Lusk / Helen Stewart / Ngaio Marsh / May Smith / Avis Higgs / Rita Angus / Olivia Spencer Bower / June Black / Rhona Haszard / Flora Scales / Gwen Knight / Beth Zanders / Käterina Mataira / Jacqueline Fahey / Ivy Fife / Alison Pickmere / Juliet Peter / Molly Macalister / Alison Duff / Margot Philips / Teuane Tibbo / Mary Wirepa / Elizabeth Ellis / Mere Harrison Lodge / Barbara Hepworth / Ilse von Randow / Florence Weir.

About the editor

Julia Waite is curator, New Zealand art at Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki. Her research interests are focused on the development of modern art in New Zealand and international modernism. Past projects she has co-curated with associated award-winning publications include *Gordon Walters: New Vision* (2018) and *Louise Henderson: From Life* (2019). Waite is currently working on a PhD at the University of Auckland researching the work of international post-war weavers and the relationship between weaving and abstraction. She regularly speaks publicly on art, recently chairing a session with English author Katy Hessel at the 2024 Auckland Writers Festival, and she has been an arts correspondent on RNZ's *Nine to Noon*.

JULIA WAITE IS AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW / EXTRACTS ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



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Media contact: Gill Hughes, Hughes PR
 E: hughespublicity@gmail.com
 P: +21 944 499

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