

Shane Cotton

Shane Cotton (b.1964 Ngati Rangī, Ngati Hine, Te Uri Taniwha) is one of New Zealand's most important contemporary painters. Of dual Maori and Pakeha descent and trained within a European painting tradition, Cotton's symbolic vocabulary draws on both the native and the introduced, weaving a tale that speaks to personal, local and universal concerns surrounding colonisation, identity and biculturalism.

Cotton is prominent amongst a generation of Maori artists that emerged in the 1980s and 1990s including Michael Parekowhai, Lisa Reihana and Peter Robinson, all of whom were schooled in contemporary western art styles and debates and have explored their Maori identity against a backdrop of globalisation and postcolonialism. Cotton's works of the early 1990s were contemporary history paintings, locating New Zealand's turbulent past firmly in the bicultural present. Drawing upon the Maori figurative styles that arose in the late nineteenth century, particularly in meeting houses inspired by the prophet and resistance leader Te Kooti Arikirangi Te Turuki, Cotton's sepia-toned works juxtaposed these images with customary carved forms, written Maori script, the coastal profiles of early European explorers and appropriations from contemporary artists as diverse as Imants Tillers, Bridget Riley and Haim Steinbach. By the late 1990s, Cotton's general histories of colonialism had become more specific and related to his own whakapapa (genealogy). Paintings such as *From Eden to Oheawai* (2000), showed the complex intermingling of Christianity and Maori belief in Tai Tokerau in the far north of New Zealand, from where Cotton's family originally came. Myth and belief have remained at the core of Cotton's recent works, but are played out in ever more ambiguous terms. Populated by images of birds, roiling clouds, moko mokai (preserved, tattooed heads), and spray painted Christian and Maori texts, Cotton's paintings since the mid-2000s evoke a sense of the sublime that exists at the interface between painting, digital technology and diverse cultural histories.

As well as maintaining an impressive schedule of solo exhibitions in Australasia, Cotton's work has been included in many important international projects such as *Turbulence*, *The 3rd Auckland Triennial* (2007) and *Paradise Now? Contemporary Art from the Pacific*, Asia Society Museum, New York (2004), and was surveyed in a major retrospective exhibition at the City Gallery Wellington (2003).

Cotton's many awards include the Frances Hodgkins Fellowship (1998); the Seppelt Contemporary Art Award (1998); and in 2008 Cotton was awarded Arts Foundation of New Zealand Laureate. His work is represented in major collections throughout Australasia, notably Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa; Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tamaki; the Chartwell Collection; Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney; National Gallery of Australia, Canberra; National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne; and Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane.

Shane Cotton lives and works in Palmerston North, New Zealand.

1964	Born Upper Hutt, New Zealand
1988	Bachelor of Fine Arts, University of Canterbury
1991	Diploma in Teaching, Christchurch College of Education
1993–2005	Lecturer, Te Putahi-a-Toi, Maori Visual Arts, Massey University

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2012
The Hanging Sky, IMA Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane (upcoming)
Smoking Gun, Anna Schwartz Gallery, Melbourne

2011
Supersymmetry, Michael Lett, Auckland

2010
Recent Painting, Michael Lett, Auckland
Smashed Myth, Anna Schwartz Gallery, Sydney
To and Fro, Rossi Rossi Gallery, London

2008
Coloured Dirt, Hamish McKay Gallery, Wellington

2007
Red-Shift, Sherman Galleries, Sydney
Helgoland, Brooke Gifford Gallery, Christchurch

2006
Shane Cotton, Hamish McKay Gallery, Wellington

2005

Pararaiha, Sherman Galleries, Sydney

2004

Shane Cotton Survey 1993-2003, curator Lara Strongman, Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tamaki

2003

Shane Cotton Survey 1993-2003, curator Lara Strongman, City Gallery Wellington

Shane Cotton: Paintings, curator Ewen McDonald, SOFA Gallery, School of Fine Arts, University of Canterbury, Christchurch

Shane Cotton: New Paintings, Brooke-Gifford Gallery, Christchurch

2002

Powder Garden, Hamish McKay Gallery, Wellington

Birds Eyes Views, Mori Gallery, Sydney

2001

Blackout Movement, Gow Langsford Gallery, Auckland

New Paintings, Brooke-Gifford Gallery, Christchurch

2000

Te Timatanga: From Eden to Ohaeawai, Dunedin Public Art Gallery, Dunedin

1999

New Painting, Brooke Gifford Gallery, Christchurch

Shane Cotton, Hocken Library Gallery, University of Otago, Dunedin

New Paintings, Hamish McKay Gallery, Wellington

New Paintings, Mori Gallery, Sydney

1998

Local, Hamish McKay Gallery, Wellington

Shane Cotton, Gow Langsford Gallery, Auckland

1997

New Painting, Brooke Gifford Gallery, Christchurch

Square Style, Mori Gallery, Sydney

1996

New Painting, Anna Bibby Gallery, Auckland

New Painting, Hamish McKay Gallery, Wellington

1995

Shane Cotton: Recent Paintings, curator Penny Swann, Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth

Te Ta Pahara, Brooke-Gifford Gallery, Christchurch

Shane Cotton: Recent Paintings, Darren Knight Gallery, Melbourne

Ta Te Whenua, Manawatu Art Gallery Palmerston North; Fisher Gallery, Auckland

1994

New Works, Claybrook Gallery, Auckland

New Painting, Hamish McKay Gallery, Wellington

1993

Collections: New Work by Shane Cotton, Hamish McKay Gallery, Wellington

1992

Strata, Brooke-Gifford Gallery, Christchurch

1990

Nature Forms Myth, Last Decade Gallery, Wellington

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2012

Letter from Alice May Williams, Michael Lett, Auckland

WHAKAWHITI ARIA: TRANSMISSION, Te Manawa Museum of Art, Science and History, Palmerston North

LAND/SCAPE, Papakura Art Gallery, Auckland

2010

17th Biennale of Sydney: The Beauty of Distance, curated by David Elliott, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney

2009

Art in the Contemporary Pacific, Kaohsiung Museum of Fine Arts, Taiwan

2007

Turbulence 3rd Auckland Triennial 2007, curated by Victoria Lynn, Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tamaki

Four Times Painting 2007, curated by Christina Barton, Adam Art Gallery Te Pataka Toi, Wellington

2006

Nuclear Reactions, curated by Paco Barragan, Caja de Burgos Art Centre, Burgos, Spain

2004

Paradise Now? Contemporary Art from the Pacific, Asia Society Museum, New York

2003

Empathy: Beyond the Horizon, curators Marketta Seppala and Imants Tillers (Pori Art Museum and Frame, The Finnish Fund for Art Exchange, Finland), Artspace, Sydney

Emerging Artists of the Nineties, 10 Works from the Fletcher Trust Collection, Tauanga Art Gallery, NZ

2002

Koru and Kowhaiwhai: The Contemporary Renaissance of Kowhaiwhai Painting, curator Helen Kedgley, Pataka Museum of Arts and Culture, Porirua, NZ

Taiawhio: Continuity and Change, Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington

2001

Home & Away: Chartwell Collection, City Gallery Wellington

Taranaki Te Maunga, Gowett Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth

Still Life, Adam Art Gallery, Victoria University, Wellington

Colin McCahon's time for messages, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne

Leaping Boundries, Mosman Art Gallery, Sydney

Empathy: Beyond the Horizon, curators Marketta Seppala and Imants Tillers, Pori Art Museum and Frame, The Finnish Fund for Art Exchange, Finland

Techno Maori: Maori in the Digital Age, curators Deidre Brown and Jonathan Mane-Wheoki, City Gallery Wellington and Pataka Museum of Arts and Culture, Porirua

Purangiaho: Seeing Clearly, curators Ngarino Ellis and Ngahiraka Mason, Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tamaki

Good Work: The Jim Barr and Mary Barr Collection, curator Justin Paton, Dunedin Public Art Gallery; City Gallery Wellington

Te Maunga Taranaki: Views of a Mountain, curators Gregory Burke, William McAloon, Hanna Scott and Darcy Nicholas, Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth

Alive!: Still Life into the 21st Century, curator Zara Stanhope, Adam Art Gallery, Victoria University of Wellington

2000

Eloquent Polarities: The Chartwell Collection - Recent Acquisitions, Auckland City Art Gallery Toi o Tamaki

Parihaka: The Art of Passive Resistance, curators Te Miringa Hohaia, Gregory O'Brien, Paula Savage and Lara Strongman, City Gallery Wellington

Te Ao Tawhito/Te Ao Hou – Old Worlds/New Worlds: Contemporary Art from Aotearoa New Zealand, Art Museum of Missoula, Montana, US; Maui Arts and Cultural Centre, Hawaii

Canterbury Painting in the 1990s, Robert McDougall Art Gallery, Christchurch

Darkness and Light: Looking at the Landscape, touring Victorian regional galleries to McClelland Art Gallery and Sculpture Park; Benalla Art Gallery; Ballarat Fine Art Gallery; Geelong Art Gallery; and to Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tamaki

Text and Image, Lopdell House Gallery, Auckland

1999

Group Show, Mori Gallery, Sydney

Chicago Art Fair, Chicago, US

Wonderlands: Views on life at the end of the century, at the end of the world, curators Gregory Burke and Hanna Scott, Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth

The Raising of the Noxious, curator Gregory Burke, Govett Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth
Word: Artists explore the power of the single word, curator Linda Michael with Peter Tyndall, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney
Manufacturing Meaning: The Victoria University Art collection in Context, curator Stuart McKenzie, Adam Art Gallery, Victoria University of Wellington
Home and Away: Contemporary Australian and New Zealand Art from the Chartwell Collection, Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tamaki; Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth; Waikato Museum of Art and History, Hamilton; City Gallery Wellington; Dunedin Public Art Gallery

1998

Wake Naima, Centre Culturel Tjibaou, New Caledonia
Takeaway symbols, Govett Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth
Skywriters and Earthmovers, Robert McDougall Art Annex, Robert McDougall Art Gallery, Christchurch
Seppelt Contemporary Art Awards 1998, curator Linda Michael, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney
FISI, Mori Gallery, Sydney
Fundraising Exhibition, High Street Project, Christchurch
Black & White, Gow Langsford Gallery, Auckland
Leap of Faith: Contemporary New Zealand Art, curator Gregory Burke, Govett Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth
Dream Collectors: One Hundred Years of New Zealand Art, curators Ian Wedde, John Walsh and Alexa Johnston, Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington and Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tamaki

1997

Now Showing: Artists go to the Movies, curators Robin Neate and Stuart McKenzie, The Film Centre, Wellington

1996

Patua, City Gallery, Wellington
Seven New Zealand Artists, Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery, Melbourne
Into the Light, Manawatu Art Gallery, Palmerston North

1995

Stop Making Sense, curator George Hubbard, City Gallery, Wellington
Korurangi: New Maori Art, Auckland Art Gallery, Auckland
A Very Peculiar Practice: Aspects of Recent New Zealand Painting, curator Allan Smith, City Gallery Wellington
The Nervous System: Twelve Artists Explore Images and Identities in Crisis, curator Allan Smith, Govett-Brewster Art Gallery New Plymouth; City Gallery Wellington
Korurangi: New Maori Art, curators George Hubbard and William McAloon, Auckland City Art Gallery

1994

Five New Zealand Artists, Darren Knight Gallery, Melbourne
Te Puaroa, Shed 1, Wellington
Parallel Lines: Gordon Walters in Context, curator William McAloon, Auckland City Art Gallery
Taking Stock of the 90s, Sarjeant Gallery, Wanganui
Taiawhio: The Coming Together, Page 90, Porirua
Localities of Desire: Contemporary Art in an International World, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney

1993

Opening Exhibition, Hamish McKay Gallery, Wellington
Te Hau A Tonga, Te Taumata Gallery, Auckland
Groundswell, Manawatu Art Gallery, Palmerston North
Christmas Show, Brooke-Gifford Gallery, Christchurch
Christmas Show, Claybrook Gallery, Auckland

1992

Tracts, Claybrook Gallery, Auckland
Te Kupenga, CSA Gallery, Christchurch
Latent Realities, McDougall Art Annex, Robert McDougall Art Gallery, Christchurch
Canvassing South, Gow Langsford Gallery, Wellington
Motif/Motive, CSA Gallery, Christchurch
Shadow of Style: Eight New Artists, curated by Gregory Burke and Robert Leonard, City Gallery Wellington, Wellington; Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth
Prospect Canterbury '92, curators Neil Roberts and Lara Strongman, Robert McDougall Art Gallery, Christchurch
He Toi Tutanga Na Ngaa Toa o Te Whare Waananga o Waitaha: An exhibition of work by past and present students of Maori descent from the School of Fine Arts, curator Jonathan Mane-Wheoki, University of Canterbury, School of Fine Arts Gallery, Christchurch

1991

Kohia Ko Taiakaka Anake, National Art Gallery, Wellington

Preparations: 25 Canterbury Artists, Brooke-Gifford Gallery, Christchurch

Recognitions, curator Lara Strongman, McDougall Art Annex, Christchurch

He Toi Tutanga Na Ngaa Toa O Te Ware Waanaga O Waitaha: An exhibition of work by past and present students of Maori

descent from the School of Fine Arts, School of Fine Arts Gallery, University of Canterbury, Christchurch

Shane Cotton, Barnard McIntyre, Peter Robinson, Gow Langsford Gallery, Wellington

1990

New Works (with Peter Robinson), Brooke Gifford Gallery, Christchurch

Christmas Show, Brooke-Gifford Gallery, Christchurch

1989

Wilkins & Davies Young Artist of the Year Award, CSA Gallery, Christchurch; Auckland Society of Arts Gallery, Auckland

1987

Young Contemporaries, CSA Gallery, Christchurch

AWARDS

1986

Bickerton-Widdowson Memorial Scholarship

1988

Ethel Rose Overton Scholarship

Sawtell-Turner Prize in Painting

Irwin Allen Hunt Scholarship

Frances Hodgkins Fellowship University of Otago, Dunedin

Seppelt Contemporary Art Award for visual arts, Museum of contemporary Art, Sydney.

1989

Wilkins and Davies Young Artist of the Year

1991

Te Waka Toi Projects Grant

1999

Te Tohu Mahi Hou a Te Waka Toi/Te Waka Toi Award for New Work

2008

Arts foundation of New Zealand Laureate

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney

National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne

Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tamaki, Auckland

Chartwell Collection, New Zealand

College House, University of Canterbury, Christchurch

Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu, Christchurch

Dunedin Public Art Gallery, Dunedin

Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth

Manawatu Art Gallery, Palmerston North

Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington

National Gallery of Australia, Canberra

Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane

Robert McDougall Art Gallery, Christchurch

Victoria University of Wellington, Wellington

Wellington City Council, Wellington

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- Oriwa Soliomon, Huhana Smith (ed), *Taiawhio II Contemporary Maori Artists* Te Papa Press, Wellington 2007
- Blair French, 'Painting Presence' *Four Times Painting*, Adam Art Gallery Te Pataka Toi, Victoria University, 2007
- William McAloon, 'Meet me by the rabbit: Jim Barr & Mary Barr Collection', *Art & Australia*, vol. 44, no. 2, summer 2006, pp. 267–271
- Paco Barragan, *Nuclear Reactions*, Centro De Arte Caja De Burgos, 2006
- Sue Gardiner, 'New Cotton works', *Artnotes*, *Art Monthly Australia*, n0. 194, October 2006, p. 44
- Laura Murray Cree (ed.), *Twenty: Sherman Galleries 1986–2006*, Craftsman House, Melbourne, 2006
- 'Shane Cotton: Pararaiha', *Nichigo Press*, August 2005, p. 40
- Tracey Clement, 'Shane Cotton', *Metro*, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 12–18 August 2005, p. 27
- 'Shane Cotton', *What's On*, *The Art Newspaper*, July–August 2005, p.
- Lara Strongman (ed.), *Shane Cotton*, City Gallery Wellington and Victoria University Press, 2004
- Susette Goldsmith (ed), *Te Maunga Taranaki: Views of a Mountain*, Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth, 2001
- Good Work: The Jim Barr and Mary Barr Collection, *Dunedin Public Art Gallery*, Dunedin, 2001
- Te Miringa Hohaia, Gregory O'Brien and Lara Strongman (eds), *Parihaka: The Art of Passive Resistance*, City Gallery, Wellington, Victoria University Press and Parihaka Pa Trustees, Wellington, 2001
- Ngahiraka Mason and Ellis, Ngarino, *Purangiako: Seeing Clearly*, Auckland Art Gallery, Auckland, 2001
- Techno Maori: *Maori Art in the Digital Age*, City Gallery Wellington and Pataka Museum, Porirua, 2001
- Blair French, 'Crossing the Tasman: The work of Gordon Bennett and Shane Cotton', *Postwest*, no. 16, 2000
- Simeon Kronenberg and Ngahiraka Mason, *Darkness and Light: Looking at the Landscape*, McClelland Gallery and Sculpture Park, Langwarrin, Victoria, 2000
- Justin Paton, 'Homing in', *Shane Cotton: Te Timatanga: From Eden to Ohaeawai*, Dunedin Public Art Gallery, Dunedin, 2000
- Sandy Adsett and Cliff Whiting (eds), *Mataora/The Living Face: Contemporary Maori Art*, David Bateman Ltd, Auckland, in association with Te Waka Toi, 1999
- Jim Barr and Mary Barr, 'Shane Cotton', *Home and Away: Contemporary Australian and New Zealand Art from the Chartwell Collection*, Auckland Art Gallery and David Bateman Ltd, 1999
- William McAloon, 'Stirring the pot: Recent paintings by Shane cotton', *Art New Zealand*, no. 90, 1999
- Nicholas Thomas, *Possessions: Indigenous Art/Colonial Culture*, Thames and Hudson, London, 1999
- Imants Tillers, 'Locating Shane Cotton' *Art AsiaPacific*, no. 23, 1999
- Linda Tyler (ed.), 'Shane Cotton', *Hocken Library*, University of Otago, Dunedin, 1999
- Elizabeth Caldwell (ed.), *Skywriters and Earthmovers*, Robert McDougall Art Gallery, Christchurch, 1998
- David Eggleton, 'History under canvas', *New Zealand Listener*, 12 December 1998
- Blair French, 'Shane Cotton: Painting at the heart of the matter', *Seppelt Contemporary Art Awards*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, 1998
- Robert Leonard, 'Shane Cotton', *Art/text*, no. 63, 1998
- Ian Wedde et al., *Dream Collectors: One Hundred Years of Art in New Zealand*, Te Papa Press, Wellington, 1998
- Jim Barr and Mary Barr, 'Shane Cotton: Mana from history', *World Art*, no. 15, 1997
- Louise Garrett, 'Exhibitions: Wellington', *Art New Zealand*, no. 83, 1997
- Charles Green, 'Shane Cotton', *Artforum*, November 1997
- Ewen McDonald, *Shane Cotton: Square Style*, Mori Gallery, Sydney, 1997
- Robin Neate and Stuart McKenzie, *Now Showing: Artists Go to the Movies*, Exhibitour, Wellington, 1997
- Sian Daly, 'Show champion', *Monica*, October–November, 1996
- Michael Dunn, *Contemporary Painting in New Zealand*, Craftsman House, Sydney, 1996
- Jonathan Mane-Wheoki, 'Korurangi/Toihoukura: Brown art in white spaces', *Art New Zealand*, no. 78, 1996
- William McAloon, 'Amidst seas and skies: Casino art in Auckland' *Art AsiaPacific*, vol. 3, no. 4, Sydney, 1996
- Gregory O'Brien, *Lands and Deeds: Profiles of Contemporary New Zealand Painters*, Godwit Press, Auckland, 1996
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- Bernice Murphy, *Localities of Desire: Contemporary Art in an International World*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, 1995
- Justin Paton, 'Exhibitions: Christchurch', *Art New Zealand*, no. 76, 1995
- Justin Paton, 'For tangled times', *New Zealand Listener*, 8 July, 1995
- Peter Shand, 'Time spent in four chambers: A very peculiar practice', *Art New Zealand*, no. 77, 1995
- Allan Smith et al., *A Very Peculiar Practice: Aspects of Recent New Zealand Painting*, City Gallery, Wellington, 1995
- Allan Smith, *The Nervous System: Twelve Artists Explore Images and Identities in Crisis*, Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth, 1995
- Susan Smith, *Ta te whenua: Shane Cotton & Robert Jahnke*, Manawatu Art Gallery, Palmerston North, 1995
- Penny Swan, *Shane Cotton: Recent Painting*, Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth, 1995
- John Daly-Peoples, 'Exhibitions: Auckland', *Art New Zealand*, no. 72, 1994
- George Hubbard, 'Buy culture', *Planet*, no. 13, 1994
- Allan Smith, 'Shane Cotton', *Art & Text*, no. 49, 1994
- Luke Strongman, 'Something in the pot: Luke Strongman talks to artist Shane Cotton' *Midwest*, no. 5, 1994

Jane Sayle, 'Exhibitions: Wellington', Art New Zealand, no. 68, 1993

Allan Smith, 'The surfaces of style', Art New Zealand, no. 66, 1993

Gregory Burke and Robert Leonard, Shadow of Style: Eight New Artists, City Gallery Wellington and Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth, 1992

Blair French, 'A choreography of form: The paintings of Shane Cotton', Art New Zealand, no. 60, 1991