

Seraphine Pick

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S raphine Pick

Born 1964 in Kawakawa, Bay of Islands
Lives and works in Wellington, New Zealand

Unsettling and illusory, S raphine Pick's paintings amalgamate theatre, memory and fantasy. Spaces are activated by bleary erasures or darkness, creating an ambiguity that leaves room for the viewer's narrative imagination to take flight. Figures sourced from the internet, photos or popular magazines often float amidst layers of paint to form psychologically-charged dreamscapes realized in a style that influenced by pre-Renaissance painting and Surrealism.

S raphine Pick was born in Kawakawa, Bay of Islands, in 1964. Pick graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Canterbury in 1987 and gained a Diploma of Teaching from Christchurch College of Education in 1991. In 1994 she received the Olivia Spencer-Bower Foundation Art Award, followed in 1995 by the Rita Angus Cottage Residency in Wellington. In 1999 she was a Frances Hodgkins Fellow at the University of Otago, Dunedin. She has received grants from the Arts Council of New Zealand (1995) and its successor Creative New Zealand (1997). From 1997-1998 Pick lectured in painting at Elam School of Fine Arts, the University of Auckland.

EDUCATION

1991
Dip Ed. Christchurch College of Education

1987
Bachelor of Fine Arts, University of Canterbury, New Zealand

AWARDS & RESIDENCIES

1999
Frances Hodgkins Fellow, University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand

1995
Rita Angus Cottage Residency in Wellington

1994
Olivia Spencer-Bower Foundation Art Award

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

2015
White Noise, The Dowse, Wellington (solo)

2014
Looking like someone else, Pataka Museum, Wellington (solo)
Paintings and Rings, Hamish McKay, Wellington (group)

2013
Wankered Again, Michael Lett, Auckland (solo)
S raphine Pick, Hamish McKay Gallery, Wellington (solo)

2012
Letter from Alice May Williams, Michael Lett, Auckland (group)

2011
Torn up phrases, Michael Lett, Auckland (solo)
The Woods, Hamish McKay Gallery, Wellington (solo)
36 years in the Zone, Brooke Gifford Gallery, Christchurch (group)

2010
Pocket Full of Rainbows, Hamish McKay Gallery, Wellington (solo)
Seraphine Pick, Uplands Gallery, Melbourne (solo)
Tell Me More, City Gallery, Wellington (solo)
Dunedin Public Art Gallery, Dunedin (solo)
Let in Light, Hamish McKay Gallery, Wellington (group)
Everything is near and inflorescent, forever and present, Michael Lett, Auckland (group)

2009

Tell Me More, Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu (solo)
Fall and Trip Hazards, Michael Lett, Auckland (solo)
Seraphine Pick, Brooke Gifford Gallery, Christchurch (solo)
Private View, Hamish McKay Gallery, Wellington (group)
Christmas Show, Brooke Gifford Gallery, Christchurch (group)

2008

Seraphine Pick, Brooke Gifford Gallery, Christchurch (solo)
Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu, Christchurch (solo)
A Winter Exhibition, Hamish McKay Gallery, Wellington (group)

2007

Burning the Furniture, Hamish McKay Gallery, Wellington (solo)
School of Fine Art University of Canterbury, 125th Anniversary Group Show, Brooke Gifford Gallery, Christchurch (group)
A Winter Show, Hamish McKay Gallery, Wellington (group)

2006

Hideout, Michael Lett, Auckland (solo)
Tall Tales and History Lessons, Dunedin Public Art Gallery, Dunedin (group)
Recovered Memory, Suter Art Gallery, Nelson (group)
Four Artists, Hamish McKay Gallery, Wellington (group)

2005

Painted Faces, Hamish McKay Gallery, Wellington (solo)
Shared Air, Kaliman Gallery, Sydney (solo)
Seraphine Pick, Michael Lett, Auckland (solo)
30th Anniversary Show - Brooke Gifford Gallery, Christchurch (group)
NADA Art Fair, Michael Lett Stand, Miami, USA (group)
Commodity & Delight: Views of Home, Sarjeant Gallery, Whanganui (group)
Hothouse, Dunedin Public Gallery, Dunedin (group)

2004

Seraphine Pick, Michael Lett, Auckland (solo)
Future Ghosts, Hamish McKay Gallery, Wellington (solo)
No Rest For the Wicked, Brooke-Gifford Gallery, Christchurch (solo)
Prospect, Adam Art Gallery, Wellington (group)
Interior World, The Physics Room, Christchurch (group)

2003

My Life and Death Trip, Michael Lett, Auckland (solo)
Portraits, Brooke-Gifford Gallery, Christchurch (solo)
Opening Exhibiton, Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu, Christchurch (group)
Portraiture: The Art of Social Commentary, Te Tuhi - The Mark, Auckland (group)

2002

New Paintings, Brooke-Gifford Gallery, Christchurch (solo)
Paintings, Hamish McKay Gallery, Wellington (solo)
Red White & Black Anna Bibby Gallery, Auckland (group)

2001

Multistylus programme: Recent Chartwell acquisitions, Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tamaki, Auckland (group)
Fabrication, Dunedin Public Art Gallery, Dunedin (group)
Beyond the Surface: Kim Pieters, Maryrose Crook, Séraphine Pick, Susan Ballard, Dunedin Public Art Gallery, Dunedin (group)
Prospect 2001: New art New Zealand, City Gallery, Wellington (group)
Bright Paradise: Exotic history and sublime artifice, 1st Auckland Triennial, Auckland (group)
Alive, Still life into the 21st Century, Adam Gallery, Victoria University, Wellington curated by Zara Standhope (group)

2000

Earthly Possessions, Hamish McKay Gallery, Wellington (solo)
Where Have you been?, Hocken Library, University of Otago, Dunedin (solo)
Private Gardens, Anna Bibby Gallery, Auckland (solo)
Parihaka, The Art of Passive Resistance, Wellington City Art Gallery, Wellington (group)
Te Ao Tawhito, Te Ao Hou Old Worlds, New Worlds Art Museum of Missoula and Maui Arts Center, Hawaii (group)

25th Anniversary exhibition, Brooke-Gifford Gallery, Christchurch (group)
Old Worlds/New Worlds: Contemporary art from Aotearoa, New Zealand, Art Museum of Missoula, Missoula, Montana; Maui Arts and Cultural Centre, Hawaii (group)
Canterbury Paintings in the 1990s, Robert McDougall Art Gallery, Christchurch (group)

1999

Recent Paintings, Anna Bibby Gallery, Auckland (solo)
Astral Plains, Hamish McKay Gallery, Wellington (solo)
New paintings, Brooke-Gifford Gallery, Christchurch (solo)
Who do you think you really are? Window installation, Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tamaki, Auckland (solo)
Fear and Beauty The Suter Te Aratoi o Whakatu, Nelson (group)
Home and Away: Contemporary Australian and New Zealand art from the Chartwell Collection, Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tamaki, Auckland; Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth; Waikato Museum of Art and History, Hamilton; Manawatu Art Gallery, Palmerston North; City Gallery, Wellington; Dunedin Public Art Gallery, Dunedin (group)

1998

Recent painting, Brooke-Gifford Gallery, Christchurch (solo)
Scratching Skin, McDougall Art Annex, Christchurch; Dunedin Public Art Gallery, Dunedin (solo)
Among Strangers, Window installation, Hungry Eyes series, Fiat Lux Gallery, Auckland (solo)
Naked, Anna Bibby Gallery, Auckland (solo)
Small Things, Lesley Kriesler Gallery, New Plymouth (solo)
Skywriters and Earthmovers, McDougall Art Annex, Christchurch (group)
Leap of Faith: Contemporary New Zealand art 1998, Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth (group)

1997

Possibly, Anna Bibby Gallery, Auckland (solo)
Looking like someone else, Manawatu Art Gallery, Palmerston North (solo)
I Wish, Hamish McKay Gallery, Wellington (with Michael Harrison) (solo)
Now showing: Artists go to the movies, Film Centre, Wellington, and touring (group)
The Chartwell Collection: A selection, Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tamaki, Auckland (group)

1996

Wonderlust, Anna Bibby Gallery, Auckland (solo)
Impulse, Brooke-Gifford Gallery, Christchurch (solo)
Recent Paintings, Hamish McKay Gallery, Wellington (solo)
Visa Gold Art award, City Gallery Wellington; Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tamaki, Auckland (group)
Drift North, McDougall Art Annex, Christchurch (group)
Pins and Needles: Eight Christchurch artists, Bishop Suter Art Gallery, Nelson (group)

1995

Unveiled, City Gallery, Wellington (solo)
In the Flesh, Hamish McKay Gallery, Wellington (solo)
Recent Paintings, Claybrook Gallery, Auckland (solo)
1994 Shadow Play, Claybrook Gallery, Auckland (solo)
Headspace, Brooke-Gifford Gallery, Christchurch (solo)
Paintings and Drawings, Hamish McKay Gallery, Wellington (solo)
Scrum, Claybrook Gallery, Auckland (group)
A Very Peculiar Practice: Aspects of recent New Zealand painting, City Gallery, Wellington (group)
Residency No 9, KNSM Gallery, Amsterdam (group)
Visa Gold Art award, City Gallery, Wellington (group)

1994

Giovanni Intra/S raphine Pick, Dunedin Public Art Gallery, Dunedin (group)
Striptease, Teststrip Gallery, Auckland (group)

1993

Recent Works, Hamish McKay Gallery, Wellington (solo)
Visa Gold Art award City Gallery, Wellington (group)
Opening up the book, Manawatu Art Gallery, Palmerston North (group)
From Liquid Darkness: Twenty five years of artists' books by women, Dunedin Public Art Gallery, Dunedin (group)
Womens Lives, McDougall Art Annex, Christchurch (group)
White Camellias: A Century of women's artmaking in Canterbury, Robert McDougall Art Gallery, Christchurch (group)

1992

New Works, Brooke-Gifford Gallery, Christchurch (solo)

Prospect Canterbury '92, Robert McDougall Art Gallery, Christchurch (group)
Four Christchurch Artists, Claybrook Gallery, Auckland (group)
Motif/Motive, CSA Gallery, Christchurch (group)
Canvassing South, Gow Langsford Gallery, Wellington (group)
emBody, CSA Gallery, Christchurch (group)

1991

Paintings and Drawings, Brooke-Gifford Gallery, Christchurch (solo)
Preparations, Brooke-Gifford Gallery, Christchurch (group)
Recognitions, McDougall Art Annex, Christchurch (group)

1989

Almost but not quite, CSA Gallery, Christchurch (solo)

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Beyond the surface: Kim Pieters, Maryrose Crook, Séraphine Pick, Susan Ballard, Dunedin Public Art Gallery, Dunedin
Bywater, Jonathan, Shadow play, Claybrook Gallery, Auckland, 1994
Bywater, Jonathan, Pins and needles: eight Christchurch artists, Bishop Suter Art Gallery, Nelson, 1996
Caldwell, Elizabeth, Drift North, Robert McDougall Art Gallery, Christchurch, 1996
Caldwell, Elizabeth, ed., Skywriters and earthmovers, Robert McDougall Art Gallery, Christchurch, 1998
Caughey, Elizabeth and John Gow, Contemporary New Zealand art vol. 1, David Bateman Ltd., Auckland, 1997
Dunn, Michael, Contemporary painting in New Zealand, Craftsman House, Sydney, 1996
Garrett, Louise, 'Exhibitions: Wellington', Art New Zealand no. 83, 1997
Jackson, Penelope and Lara Strongman eds. White camellias: A century of women's artmaking in Canterbury, Robert McDougall Art Gallery, Christchurch, 1993
Miburn, Felicity, Séraphine Pick: scratching skin, Robert McDougall Art Gallery, Christchurch, 1998
Neate, Robin and Stuart McKenzie, Now showing: artists go to the movies, Exhibitour, Wellington, 1997
Neate, Robin, Séraphine Pick: looking like someone else, Manawatu Art Gallery, Palmerston North, 1997
O'Brien, Gregory, 'Booked and bound up: opening up the book at the Manawatu Art Gallery', Art New Zealand, no.70, 1994
Poppelwell, Louise, Surreal and Grotesque, New Zealand Herald, pg B9, / 22 October 2003
Renault, Claire, Séraphine Pick: unveiled, City Gallery, Wellington, 1995
Ross, James, ed., New Zealand modernism: figuration and expressionism: paintings from the Gibbs collection, The Gibbs Collection, Auckland, 1995
Shand, Peter, 'Time spent in four chambers: A very peculiar practice', Art New Zealand, no. 77, 1995
Simpson, Peter, 'Reverie and phantasmagoria: recent paintings by Séraphine Pick', Art New Zealand no.91, 1999
Smith, Allan, 'Séraphine Pick', Flash art, December, 1995
Smith, Allan, et al., A very peculiar practice: aspects of recent New Zealand painting, City Gallery, Wellington, 1995
Smith, Allan, Fear and beauty, The Suter Te Aratoi o Whakatu, Nelson, 1999
Smith, Allan, et al., Bright paradise: exotic history and sublime artifice: the 1st Auckland Triennial, Auckland Gallery, in association with Artspace and the University of Auckland, 2001
Stevenson, Sharon, 'In the mind's eye', More Magazine, November, 1995
Strongman, Lara, Recognitions, Robert McDougall Art Gallery, Christchurch, 1991
Strongman, Lara 'Séraphine Pick', Home and away: contemporary Australian and New Zealand art from The Chartwell Collection, Auckland Art Gallery and David Bateman Ltd., 1999.
Strongman, Lara, 'True Confessions', Midwest, no 7, 1995
Strongman, Luke, 'Christchurch' Log Illustrated, Spring, 1998

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tamaki
Chartwell Collection
Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu
Bank of New Zealand
National Bank
Gisborne Museum
Saatchi & Saatchi
Fletcher Challenge
Robert McDougall Art Gallery
Manawatu Art Gallery
Dunedin Public Art Gallery
Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa
Christ's College
Christchurch College of Education

Lincoln University
University of Canterbury
University of Auckland
The Paris Family Collection
Jenny Gibbs Collection