

Michelle Mayn

Biography

Through durational processes and time spent with the natural world, Michelle Mayn combines harakeke fibre with found materials using processes of weaving, binding, twining, and knotting that stem from a practice of Maori weaving. Mayn's process-based practice places primacy on materials and the actions or events of making. Through detailed manual processes and durational techniques, material, light, form and movement are combined to create ephemeral object-based installations and sculptures that explore the mauri (life force) of materials beyond the world of sense perception.

Mayn was born in Auckland in Aotearoa, New Zealand and studied Traditional and Contemporary Maori Weaving at Unitec in 2011 and mixed media at The Art Students League of New York in 2017. Mayn has exhibited regularly in New Zealand and the United States since 2010 and has recently completed a Masters of Visual Arts with Honours (First Class) at Auckland University of Technology.

Personal

Born Takapuna, North Shore City, Auckland/Tamaki Makaurau, Aotearoa/New Zealand

Education

- 2020 AUT Auckland University of Technology, Masters of Visual Art with Honours (First Class)
- 2018 AUT Auckland University of Technology, Post Graduate Diploma in Visual Art
- 2016 to 2017 Art Students League of New York, Mixed Media, New York City, USA
- 2011 Traditional and Contemporary Maori Weaving, Unitec School of Art & Design, Auckland, NZ

Solo Exhibitions

- 2019 Of Journeys Between Two Places, Studio One - Toi Tū, Auckland
- 2017 Shimmer, Weaving Dark to Light, Village Arts Gallery, Hokianga, Northland
- 2015 Decoded: Exploring traditional weaving in a contemporary context, Northart, Auckland

Exhibitions:

- 2020 Material Issues, Village Arts, Northland
- 2020 Ko rātou, ko tātou | On Otherness and Us-ness: Northart Gallery, Auckland (curated by Salama Moata McNamara and Sonja van Kerkhoff)
- 2019 Tatai Whenua: Sailing Under the Same Stars, Waiheke Community Art Gallery, Waiheke Island, Auckland
- 2019 28th Wallace Art Awards: Exhibition of Winners and Selected Travelling Finalists, Pah Homestead, Auckland
- 2019 First Encounters, Village Arts, Northland
- 2019 Wawata: Pā Te Aroha Weavers, Village Arts, Northland
- 2019 X-Marks: Conversations in Cloth, Northart, Auckland
- 2019 Matariki Postgraduate Exhibition: St Paul Street Gallery, AUT, Auckland
- 2019 Sea Conversations, Waiheke Community Art Gallery, Waiheke Island, Auckland
- 2019 The Barrel Store Project, Corban Estate Arts Centre, Auckland
- 2018 Rubbish 2, Village Arts, Kohukohu, Northland
- 2018 Unbound: the exhibition, Dunedin School of Art Gallery, Dunedin
- 2018 X-Marks: Conversations in Cloth, Te Kōngahu Museum of Waitangi, Bay of Islands
- 2018 PostPILOT: 'A Light Reflection' – St Paul Street Gallery III, Auckland CBD
- 2018 GRiD: Waiheke Community Art Gallery, Waiheke Island, Auckland

- 2017 Make Yourself at Home, Village Arts, Northland (curated by Heiwari Johnson)
- 2016 Student Concours, Phyllis Harriman Mason Gallery, New York City, USA
- 2015 Strands: Weaving a new fabric, Objectspace, (curated by Doris de Pont, [catalogue]) Auckland
- 2015 Code Gala, Rannoch House, James Wallace Residence, Auckland
- 2015 Small Expressions, HGA, Textile Centre, Minnesota, USA
- 2015 Rubbish, Village Arts, Kohukohu, Northland
- 2010 to 2014 Various group shows, Northart Gallery, Auckland

Awards

- 2020 Dean's Award for Excellence in Post Graduate Study, Te Ara Auaha - Faculty of Design & Creative Technologies
- 2019 Finalist - 28th Wallace Art Awards
- 2015 Finalist - World of Wearable Art
- 2015 Edith Whiteman Award, Small Expressions, HGA Handweavers Guild of America

Residency

- 2014 - Artists Residency, Wharepuke, Kerikeri, Northland

Publications featured in:

Michelle Mayn, 'Observations and reflections on agency, mauri and tikanga Maori in contemporary art practice', *Context: Dress, Fashion, Textiles*, Issue 37, Summer 2018/19, pg.76-89

Natalie Smith & Victoria Bell, 'Unbound: the exhibition', *Dunedin School of Art Gallery catalogue*, Sept 2018

Cait McLennan Whyte, From Here to There, *Fabricate*, Issue 4, Winter 2017

Mark Amery, On The Edges: Hokianga (part two), *The Big Idea*, 12 July 2017

Robin Shepherd, "You will not see better than this" *Northland Age*, 30 March 2017

Suzanne P. MacAulay, Ph.D, "Winds of Change: Maori Samplers and the Colonial Ethos" presented at the Textile Society of America's 15th Biennial Symposium, *Crosscurrents: Land, Labor and the Port*, Savannah, Georgia, USA, October 19-23, 2016.

Doris de Pont, 'STRANDS: Weaving a New Fabric', *Object Space Extended catalogue*, Oct 2015

Leigh Bramwell, "These Northland women are ... WOW!" *Savvy Our People*, 15 Sept 2015,

Rebecca Barry Hill, 'Taking their sweet time', *Viva*, 28 Aug 2015

Sarah Harris, "Weaving between Kohukohu and New York", *Stuff.co.nz*, 28 Aug 2015

Shuttle Spindle & Dyepot vol. XLVI No. 3 Issue 183 Summer 2015, The Handweavers Guild of America, Inc

Sonja van Kerkhoff, 'Recycling the material', Wordpress, 9 May 2015