

J a m e s F. O R M S B Y

Ngati Maniapoto, Waikato, Te Arawa and Clan Ferguson

Solo Exhibitions : (x11)

- JAMES ORMSBY - NEW WORKS: (Whitespace Gallery, Ponsonby, Auck., May,'08).
"He draws intricate layers of sky, sea and underworld in a way that links Pakeha and Maori and the migration that both have made to these islands. The works are large, ingenious and use the swell of the ocean, the ride of canoes and the intricacy of sculpture to create a very convincing personal mythology".
(T. J. McNamara. The NZ Herald. 29/05/08)
- NEW DRAWINGS – By James Ormsby: (The Pencil Gallery, Gisborne. Jan.'08)
- MAORIGAMI – New Work from James Ormsby:
(Whitespace Gallery, Ponsonby, Auck., July,'07).
"If you have met James Ormsby, you will know that his joy emanates from within, as if from consciousness itself. His joy is indeed contagious, and it is easy to be drawn-in, reflection after reflection... once a conversation has been initiated and engaged. This is completely in keeping with the nature of discourse, exchange and further discourse. His image-based practice is equally persuasive, for the literal and metaphoric layers in James' drawings, seem to me to represent a horizontal dimension to his thinking. Cultural layers in his art are somehow a complimentary vertical dimension of some depth... a threshold if you like, to expanding understanding." (Ngahiraka Mason, Maorigami catalogue, 2007)
- AROHA - The Drawings of James Ormsby:
(Waikato Museum of History & Art", Hamilton, New Zealand. Jan., '07).
- DANCE OF A MARAE FLY – New Work from James Ormsby:
(Whitespace Gallery, Ponsonby, Auck., Oct.,'06).
"This show compels close attention... Large Drawings and Paintings in the show have similar breath and detail. It is a select and thoughtful show"
(T. J. McNamara. The NZ Herald. 11/10/06)
- JAMES ORMSBY - NEW WORKS: (Whitespace Gallery, Ponsonby, Auck., Oct.,'05).
- MOMO TOI: New work by James Ormsby: (The Pencil Gallery, Gisborne. Jan.'05)
"It is rare to encounter an artist who has both the patience and the skill to execute the kinds of varied works that are typical of James Ormsby... the exhibition is a testimony to the artist's far-reaching and diverse talents." (Norman Maclean. Gisborne 28/01/05)

- JAMES ORMSBY - NEW WORKS:
(Whitespace Gallery, New Market, Auck., Aug., '04).
"A recommended show... These works are drawings rather than paintings but one of them, the large "Homage to John Bevan Ford", is as big as any painting. It combines intricate patterns of line with a cosmic spiral spinning in a dark space. Not so grand, but equally powerful in their way, are a series of works that combine a feather from the mythical bird Korotangi with evocations of the Waikato region. An exceptionally fine show."
(T. J. McNamara. The NZ Herald. 11/08/04)
- JAMES ORMSBY - NEW WORKS: (Whitespace Gallery, New Market, Auck., Oct., '03).
"He does drawings... all similar but varied in a multitude of ways that are a wonderful evocation of genealogy. Works on ply veneer... are successful in being objects that speak of the past, the present and concerns about the environment."
(T. J. McNamara. The NZ Herald. 22/10/03)
- KANOHI TE KANOHI : FACE TO FACE (Te Awamutu Museum, NZ., 2002.)
"...a totally innovative approach... breathes new life into our collection and our history." (Tracy Sibson. Museum Director. Waikato Times. 25/3/02)
- MOMO TOI : A FUSION ART
(a series of 4 shows, from Nov. '01 to Oct. '02, at ...
- Margot Phillips Gallery Artspost, Hamilton,
- Calder & Lawson Gallery, Waikato University, Hamilton,
- Apakura Gallery, Te Awamutu,
- Lopdell House Gallery, Waitakere).
"Ormsby's work demonstrate a rich iconography drawn from both cultures which combine in unexpected ways to produce restrained and handsome works."
(Stephen Haley. Melb.,Australia. 2002).

Group Exhibitions : (x34)

- ARTIST'S ROOM: Participating artist with Whitespace Gallery, Auckland, 2008.
- STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Invited national Artists at Gus Fisher Gallery, University of Auckland, Auckland, NZ., 2008.
- AOTEAROA LIBERATORS: : Eleven national Artists invited to work on Cuba-Aotearoa Poster Project. Ramp Gallery, Wintech, Hamilton, NZ., 2008.
- L.A. ART FAIR: Participating artist with Whitespace Gallery, Auckland, shown in Los Angeles, California, USA. 2008.
- CURRENT - Contemporary Oceanic Art Group show at Whitespace Gallery, Auckland, 2007.
- RED: Invited national Artists at Christchurch Art Gallery, Christchurch, 2007+8.
Curator: Ken Hall.

- 2007 MAORI MARKET (Toi Maori Show) Invited national Artists, Wellington.
- 2007 AUCKLAND ART FAIR: Participating artist with Whitespace Gallery, Auckland.
- LOOKS SO FINE: Group sculpture show at Whitespace Gallery, Auckland, 2007).
- KORORAREKA:
(Invited national Artists to Russell, NZ., 2007. curator: Clive Arlidge)
- BIRDS: The Art of New Zealand Birdlife.
(Invited national Artists at Pataka, Porriua, NZ., 2006. curator: Helen Kedgley)
- MANAWATAKI: Celebrating Matariki at Waikato University.
(Calder & Lawson Gallery, Waikato University, Hamilton, N.Z. 2006.
Curator: Donna Campbell).
"Most striking is James Ormsby's Waka Series #3... This work evokes the tactility of traditional Maori Art but does so in a way that is subtle and restrained, demonstrating a clear vision and deft handling of medium".
(Waikato Times - Art Review by: Ann McEwan. 13/07/06)
- PERSONA: A Tribute to John Bevan Ford.
(Invited national artists at The Pencil Gallery, Gisborne, N.Z.)
"James Ormsby dominates at one side with a huge expanse of thick paper on which multiple hatchings in pencil and delicate trails of thin colour make their unique, "Homage to John...". The upper third of this work is a velvety black, descending like some benign fog while the lower portion is inscribed with text in Maori. Viewing it is like confronting a glacier: a powerful and slow-moving force in which objects are ground down, carried forward, deposited and the passage of this weight sweeps clean. Bevan Ford is memorably honoured in this exhibition that should not be missed by anyone who takes an interest in the fast-changing face of art in New Zealand."
(Norman MacLean, 20/06/06)
- LETTERS TO THE ANCESTORS: Celebrating the World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education. (Invited artists at the Waikato Museum of Art and History, Hamilton, NZ., 2005. re. catalogue).
- NOT ONE ACRE MORE: Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the Maori Land March. (Invited Maori Artists at Artspost Gallery, Hamilton, NZ., 2005)
"James Ormsby and Reuben Patterson tread familiar territory by referencing map-making, paying tribute to the founding generation contemporary Maori artists, and using a red, black and white pallet, respectively. That said each artist creates work that is distinctly individual and so advances the development of contemporary Maori art while acknowledging its history to date."
(Waikato Times - Art Review by: Ann McEwan. 16/09/05)

- 2005 AUCKLAND ART FAIR: Participating artist with Whitespace Gallery, Auckland.
- 2005 GLASSGLOW ART FAIR: Participating artist with Whitespace Gallery.
- LATITUDE: exploring Cultural Identity.
(Invited American and NZ Artists at TakeTake Gallery - Awanuiarangi, Whakatane, NZ. 2005)
- WHAIHANGA TOI: The Culture Builders.
(Maori Artists and Educators at Scott Ormond Gallery, Napier, NZ. 2005)
- 3 POINTS OF VIEW: (Work from the collection at Waikato Museum of Art and History, Hamilton, NZ. 2004)
- TRANSIT OF VENUS: (Invited artists at Milford Galleries, Dunedin, NZ. 2004)
- RECENT WORK from Darren George, Hemi Mac Gregor and James Ormsby:
(Milford Galleries, Dunedin, NZ. 2004).
- TE HA O TE WHENUA: Contemporary Maori Landscape Painting 1955 – 2003
(Invited national Artists at Pataka, Porirua, NZ., 2003-4. curator: Helen Kedgley)
"The current generation of landscape painters has "colonised" the two-dimensional representation of landscape, but Ormsby's Pataka work goes further than the two-dimensional. The materials he has used do not contain petroleum or chemicals... something that is not just imagery but a signifier of nature".
(The Dominion Post : Magazine - Art Review by: Diana Dekker. 25/10/03)
- THE RIM (Whitespace group show at Auckland, Feb., and Melbourne, July, 2003).
- THE KORU & KOWHAIWHAI: The Contemporary Renaissance of Kowhaiwhai Painting. (Invited national Artists at Pataka, Porirua, NZ., 2002-3, re. catalogue).
- STRATA 2001 (Span Gallery, Melbourne, Australia, 2002, re. catalogue).
- WINTER GROUP SHOW 2001 (Qdos Gallery, Lorne, Victoria, Australia).
- TO SCALE (Invited Artists at Geoff Wilson Gallery, Whangarei, NZ., 2001, re. cat.).
- NZ CANDIDATES SHOW (Masterate Exhibition, RMIT Faculty Gallery, Melbourne, Australia, 2001. re. catalogue).
- NGA MOMO TOKI (Artspost Gallery, Hamilton, NZ., 2000)
"In works of vibrant colour and careful composition, the synthesis of traditional motifs with contemporary art practices, the incorporation of non-Maori art styles and cultural references, and the post-colonial relationship between Maori and pakeha are handled with confidence and individuality."
(Waikato Times - Art Review by: Ann McEwan. 21/1/00)

- NEW MAORI ART (Invited national Artists at Te Taumata Gallery, curator: Chris Bryant, Auckland for the APEC Conference, NZ., 1999).
- IWI'D (Artspost Gallery, Hamilton, NZ., 1999)
"...suggests things to come in the further development of contemporary New Zealand art." (Waikato Times - Art Review by: Ann McEwan. 23/4/99)
- RA WAHI (Contemporary Maori Art at the Commonwealth Games, curator: Sandy Adsett, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. 1998)
- TE WEU (Artspost Gallery, Hamilton, NZ., 1998)
"... Anyone interested in the development of Maori art should make a point of visiting this vital display."
 (Waikato Times - Art Review by: G. E. Fairburn.18/9/98)