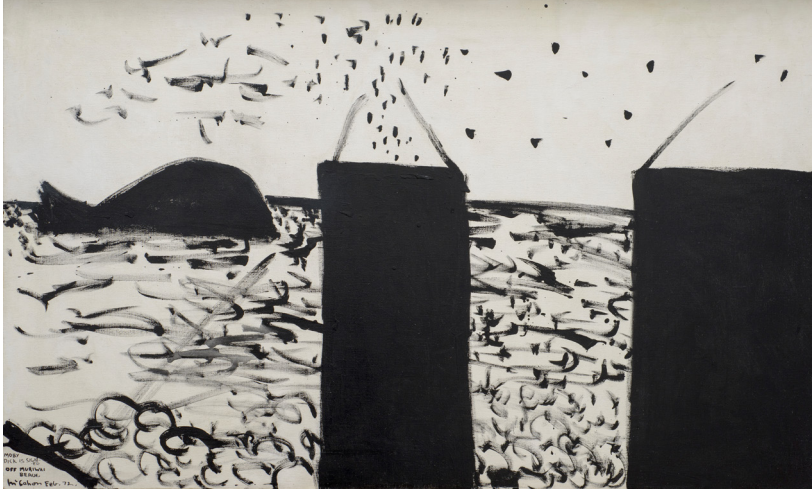


A Place to Paint: Colin McCahon in Auckland **Opens Saturday 10 August at Auckland Art Gallery**

New exhibition coincides with centenary of Colin McCahon's birth.



Colin McCahon
Moby Dick is sighted off Muriwai Beach 1972, Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki, on loan from a private collection. Courtesy of the Colin McCahon Research and Publication Trust.

Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki presents *A Place to Paint: Colin McCahon in Auckland*, an exhibition of work by one of New Zealand's foremost artists, Colin McCahon (1919–1987), opening Saturday 10 August.

McCahon's work is marked by a strong spirit of experimentalism and independence. Today, he is widely regarded as one Australasia's key 20th-century artists.

A Place to Paint: Colin McCahon in Auckland traces the artist's development over the 30 years he lived in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland, and reveals the significance that place had for his painting and its presence in his art.

Auckland Art Gallery Director Kirsten Paisley says, 'Colin McCahon's contribution to art in New Zealand is immense. Not only was he a leading painter, but also an influential teacher, curator and critic. And he is a significant figure in Auckland Art Gallery's history, serving as a Keeper and later Assistant Director over a period of almost a decade.'

'We are excited to share this exhibition, which presents an in-depth look at some of McCahon's most important art works – paintings that continue to resonate with us a century after his birth.'

A Place to Paint: Colin McCahon in Auckland features 25 key paintings drawn from Auckland Art Gallery's renowned collection, as well as from private holdings, and includes works that have rarely been seen.

The exhibition marks the first public display of painted windows from the Convent Chapel of the Sisters of our Lady of the Missions, Remuera. Completed by McCahon in 1965, the 13 glass panels came from the decommissioned chapel and were gifted by the Sisters to the people of Auckland in 1989. Preserved by the Gallery's conservation team, the windows will be displayed with digital renderings of how they first appeared when installed in the Chapel.

Shifting north in 1953, from Christchurch to Titirangi in West Auckland, McCahon's physical relocation parallels a move away from figurative paintings based on Bible stories and towards an engagement with his immediate environment. Over the subsequent 30 years, his painting reflected local places: the kauri

Continues overleaf

forest surrounding his house at French Bay; the factory roofs of the inner city; the sun moving over the Waitakeres; and the gannet colony at Muriwai. *A Place to Paint: Colin McCahon in Auckland* explores the deepening metaphorical significance of the Auckland landscape in McCahon's painting.

The exhibition will also explore the broader context in which McCahon painted and his role as an energetic force and active participant in the local art scene.

A Place to Paint: Colin McCahon in Auckland is curated by Auckland Art Gallery's curators Ron Brownson and Julia Waite.

Exhibition details

A Place to Paint: Colin McCahon in Auckland

When:

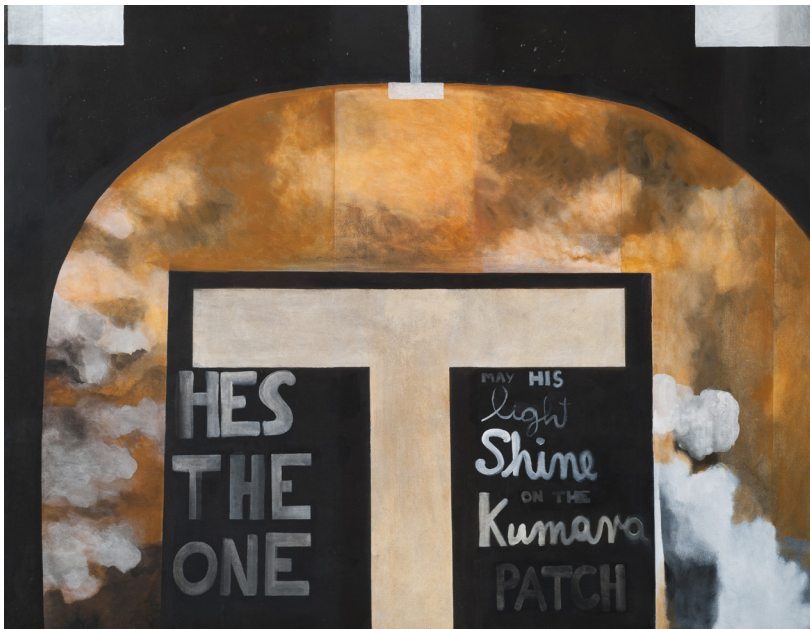
Saturday 10 August 2019 to
Monday 27 January 2020

10am–5pm daily

Where:

Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki
Cnr Kitchener and Wellesley Streets
Auckland, New Zealand

Free with Gallery entry



Colin McCahon
May His light shine (Tau Cross)
1978-1979, Chartwell
Collection, Auckland Art Gallery
Toi o Tāmaki, 1980

Continues overleaf

From the Archive: Colin McCahon in Auckland

Colin McCahon's relationship with Auckland Art Gallery is explored in a second exhibition, *From the Archive: Colin McCahon in Auckland*, which opens Saturday 13 July. Utilising photographs, ephemera and publications from Auckland Art Gallery's E H McCormick Research Library, the archive exhibition takes visitors closer inside McCahon's days as a curator, and later teacher, as he moves from a career at Auckland City Art Gallery (now known as Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki), to lecturing at Elam School of Fine Arts, before becoming a full-time painter in the early 1970s.

From the Archive: Colin McCahon in Auckland is co-curated by the artist's grandson Finn McCahon-Jones and Gallery archivist Caroline McBride.

Exhibition details

From the Archive: Colin McCahon in Auckland

When:

Saturday 13 July 2019
to early 2020

10am–5pm daily

Where:

Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki
Cnr Kitchener and Wellesley Streets
Auckland, New Zealand

Free with Gallery entry

**For more information, high-res images
and interview requests contact:**

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Notes to editors

Colin McCahon (1919–1987)



Colin McCahon is widely recognised as one of New Zealand's influential artists. Over 45 years, his work encompassed many themes, subjects and styles, from landscape to figurative to abstraction, and showed an innovative use of painted text. His adaption of aspects of modernist painting to a specific local situation and his intense engagement with spiritual matters, mark him out as a distinctive figure in 20th-century art.

“ My painting is almost entirely autobiographical – it tells you where I am at any given time, where I am living and the direction I am pointing in. ”

Colin McCahon, *Colin McCahon: A Survey* exhibition (Auckland City Art Gallery, March/April 1972), p26.

Colin McCahon photographed in the Auckland City Art Gallery 1961, Photograph by Bernie Hill. E H McCormick Research Library, Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki.

Principal partner



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