

WILL BENNETT

Will Bennett lives and paints in Wellington and completed his Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours) at Massey University Wellington in 2016. Bennett is an emerging painter, predominantly working with oils. His practice explores the unease that exists within the history and landscape of Aotearoa. Painting from photographic archives, Bennett has reinterpreted moments from his own life, our collective past and reenactors of the past in a contemporary context. His paintings battle with authenticity, connection and belonging.

Bennett has had several solo and group exhibitions across Aotearoa. Recent exhibitions include: *The Right Place?* (Auckland Art Fair), *Polyester Soldiers Stitch Witches, Always Forever Now, Summer Selection* and *One* (Jhana Millers Gallery, 2019-2021); *Burnt Bridge* (Anderson Rhodes Gallery, 2019); and *Gone with Makura* (Precinct 35, 2017). Bennett was a finalist in the Adam Portrait Award at the New Zealand Portrait Gallery in 2014.

1994 Born New Plymouth, New Zealand
2012 Certificate in Creative Technologies, WITT, New Plymouth
2014 Diploma in Creative Technologies, WITT, New Plymouth
2016 BFA (First Class Hons), Whiti o Rehua School of Art, Massey University, Wellington

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2022 *The Bush Points Back*, Kingsroy, New Plymouth, NZ
2020 *Polyester Soldiers Stitch Witches*, Jhana Millers Gallery, Wellington, NZ
2019 *Always Forever Now*, Millers O'Brien Gallery, Wellington, NZ
Burnt Bridge, Anderson Rhodes Gallery, New Plymouth, NZ
2017 *Gone with Makura*, Precinct 35, Wellington, NZ
2016 *Gatherings*, Kina Gallery, New Plymouth, NZ
2015 *Address to Now*, Whanganui Arts Centre, Whanganui, NZ

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2021 *The Right Place?*, Auckland Art Fair, Jhana Millers Gallery
Summer Collection, Jhana Millers Gallery, Wellington, NZ
2019 *ONE*, Millers O'Brien Gallery, Wellington, NZ
The Garden, Precinct 35, Wellington, NZ
2018 *xmas' 18*, PG gallery192, Christchurch, NZ
do you want to keep dreaming?, Tacit Gallery, Hamilton, NZ
2017 *dark works, hung low*, Space Gallery, Whanganui, NZ
2016 *Exposure*, Massey Campus, Wellington, NZ
We're Not Dead, Wellington CBD, NZ
2014 *Adam's Portrait Awards*, National Portrait Gallery, NZ
Connections, Percy Thomson Gallery, Stratford, NZ

AWARDS

2016 Space Studio & Gallery National Emerging Artist Award
2014 Adam's Portrait Awards, Finalist, Wellington

COLLECTIONS

New Zealand National Portrait Collection

ESSAYS/REVIEWS

Will Bennett, *Polyester Soldiers Stitch Witches*, Malcolm Burgess, Art New Zealand, Issue 176, pg 43