



lives and works in Whakatū
Nelson, New Zealand

Bachelor of Fine Art, University of
Canterbury School of Fine Arts Te
Whare Wānanga o Waitaha
in 1994

Michael Dell graduated from the School of Fine Arts at the University of Canterbury in 1994. While in his final year at art school he won the 1993 Cranleigh Barton National Drawing Award. Recently Dell won the 2019 Parkin Drawing Prize, which makes him one of the few artists to win both of this country's premier drawing awards.

Michael Dell's work shifts from subject to non-subject, from representation to abstraction, where both modes of visual discourse reveal an evident attention to materiality and the static tension between picture surface and picture depth. His landscape and abstract paintings and drawings are rendered with the same meticulous treatment, where the formal distinction between representation and abstraction becomes irrelevant. Dell's works display an interest in the ordinary and the commonplace and also reveal an ambivalent and enigmatic approach towards his chosen subject or non subject, within the constructs of picture making.

He is widely recognised for the particular surface quality of his paintings and has work in a number of significant public collections, including:

SELECTED PRIVATE AND PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetū

Waikato Museum of Art, Te Whare Taonga o Waikato

The University of Auckland Collection Waipapa Taumata Rau

The Suter Art Gallery Te Aratoi o Whakatū

Te Pūkenga Whanganui

The Parkin Drawing Collection

The Kellihur Arts Trust

The Ballin Collection, Seoul

Tokyo Bank Collection, Japan

The National Bank Art Collection

The Art House Trust

SELECTED AWARDS

2019 Parkin Drawing Prize, Wellington

2017 Parkin Drawing Prize Wellington (Merit)

1993 Cranleigh Barton National Drawing Award Christchurch

1990 Gallagher Group National Art Award Hamilton

1988 Gallagher Group National Art Award Hamilton

1984 Gallagher Group National Art Award Hamilton

1983 Tauranga National Art Award (Merit)

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2024 'Backlit Fields', Föenander Galleries, Auckland

2022 'Sunday Morning', Föenander Galleries, Auckland

2020 'Even Now', Föenander Galleries, Auckland

2020 'Endless Days', The Suter Gallery, Nelson

2018 'Nature In My Mind', Föenander Galleries, Auckland

2018 'Before / Now' Survey Show NMIT G-Space Gallery, Nelson

2016 'Between Nature And Nothing, Föenander Galleries, Auckland

2015 Moutere / New Work' NFC Gallery, Nelson

2008' Surface Nature' Centre of Contemporary Art, Christchurch

2005 'In Between' McPherson Gallery, Auckland

2005 'Paintings And works On Paper' City Art Depot, Christchurch

2005 'In Between' Peter Rae Gallery, Dunedin

2004 'Recent Work' McPherson Gallery, Auckland

2002 'Recent Work' Studio Works Gallery, Christchurch

1999 'Drawings' Chartwell Gallery, Hamilton

1998 'Drawings' The Drawings Gallery, Auckland

1996 'Drawings From The Inside' Centre of Contemporary Art, Christchurch

1995 ' Arranging The Object' Moray Gallery, Dunedin

1993 'Vignettes' Solutions Gallery, Dunedin

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 'Material Object', Föenander Galleries, Bowen Ave, Auckland
- 2023 'Aotearoa Art Fair', Föenander Galleries, Auckland
- 2021 'Dell + Kube', Föenander Galleries, Queenstown
- 2019 Parkin Drawing Prize, NZ Academy of Fine Art Wellington
- 2019 'Sharks and Still Lives', The Suter Gallery
- 2017 26th Wallace Art Awards, Wallace Arts Trust Auckland
- 2017 3 Artists from the Parkin Prize, The Suter Gallery, Nelson
- 2017 Parkin Drawing Prize, NZ Academy of Fine Art, Wellington
- 2017 Shades of Nature. Marlborough Public Art Gallery
- 2017 Canaday Awards, Whakatane Arts Museum
- 2017 'Solid Air', NKB Gallery Auckland
- 2016 Worth, Refinery Art Space, Nelson
- 2009 'WTF', Paulneache Gallery, Gisbourne
- 2005 'Ape To Zip', Christchurch City Art Gallery
- 2005 Auckland Art Fair, McPherson Gallery
- 2005 'Object & Idea', McPherson Gallery, Auckland
- 2005 'Art Event Fund-Raiser', Christchurch City Art Gallery
- 2003 'CB Drawing Exhibition', Christchurch City Art Gallery
- 1999 '100 × 100 × 100', McPherson Gallery Auckland
- 1998 'Grid', Campbell Grant Galleries, Christchurch
- 1997 CB Drawing Exhibition, McDougall Art Annex, Christchurch
- 1997 Group Artists Show, The Lane Gallery Auckland
- 1996 'Drawing out of Context', Centre of Contemporary Art, Christchurch
- 1995 'The Print Workshop', Wanganui Polytechnic
- 1995 'Drawing from Experience', C S A Gallery, Christchurch
- 1995 'New Printmakers', C S A Gallery, Christchurch
- 1994 'Draw on the Walls', The Draw, Christchurch
- 1994 Recent Acquisitions, Robert McDougall art Gallery, Christchurch
- 1993 'Print and Paper', McDougall Art Annex, Christchurch
- 1993 'Print and Paper', Kurashiki Public Art Gallery, Japan
- 1993 'CB Drawing Exhibition', McDougall Art Annex, Christchurch
- 1990 National Mutual Art Awards Touring Exhibition

PUBLICATIONS

Sunday Morning - Michael Dell, 2022

Endless Days - Michael Dell, The Suter Gallery, Anchor Print 2020

The Collections, Christchurch City Gallery, Spectrum Print 2003

Bulletin 129, The Drawing Collection, Robert McDougall Gallery 2002

A Concise History of Art in Canterbury 1850 - 2000,

Robert McDougall Gallery, Rainbow Print 2000

SELECTED ART REVIEWS AND ARTICLES

Baskett, Mark, Art New Zealand, Number 175, 2020

ARTNOW, Charcoal Drawing Wins 2019 Parkin Drawing Prize, 2019

Desmarais, Felix, Drawn Out Success, The Dominion Post, 2019

Nightingale, Melissa, Drawing Prize Turns More Traditional, NZ Herald 2019

Desmarais, Felix, Michael Dell Wins Parkin Drawing Prize, Nelson Mail, 2019

Voon, Claire, When is a Drawing Not a Drawing, Hyprealleryic.com 2017

Meij, Sara, Ghostly Images Wins Prize for Artist, Nelson Mail 2017

Nick Haig, Before/Now, Survey Exhibition Catalogue, NMIT, Nelson, 2017

Ritchie, Judith, Captivated by The Moutere, Nelson Mail 2015

Dingwall, Richard, In Between, Otago Daily Times 2005

Body, Ralph, In Between, The Critic Web 2005

McNamara, T J, Much More Than Luck of The Draw, NZ Herald 2004

Lewis, Geoff, Artist Returns to Hamilton For Exhibition, The Waikato Times, 1999

McEwan Ann, Drawings by Michael Dell, The Waikato Times 1999

McNamara, T J, In a Dark City Art Generates Power, NZ Herald 1998

Usser, Robyn, Intensity and Elegance Underpin Drawings, The Press 1996

Pearson, Alison, Four at The C. S. A., The Press 1993

Ussher, Robyn, Cranleigh Barton Drawing Award, The Press, 1993

Ussher, Robyn, Works on Paper, The Press 1993

Fairburn, G. E., Excavation/Extraction, The Waikato Times 1992