



Born in New Zealand

Lives and works in Sydney,  
Australia

Whitecliffe College of Arts &  
Design, New Zealand,

Michael McHugh has been painting for more than thirty years. His practice has consistently explored colour, composition and textural, abstract form with a strong connection to the natural world. McHugh collects a range of different photographs and drawings during research trips visiting museums, libraries and gardens around the world, returning to his Sydney-based studio to draw and create a series of collages which lead to large format paintings.

With the use of gestural, acrylic mark making, McHugh creates a layered abstraction moving between the paintings' surface and botanical shapes. Works are sometimes sombre and brooding, and other times energetic and vibrant, with textural layers echoing moments in time. McHugh believes constant drawing and collaging to be fundamental to his painting process. This foundation enables him to fully explore composition and vigorously push boundaries with colour and technique.

Graduating from Whitecliffe College of Arts & Design in New Zealand, he has attended masterclasses in painting at the National Art School in Sydney, Australia. He currently works in the creative media industry, and also exhibits his work in Auckland, New Zealand. McHugh's work is held in a number of private collections in New Zealand, Australia and the United Kingdom.

## EDUCATION

Bachelor of Arts, Whitecliffe College of Arts & Design in New Zealand

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2021 Pacific Street, Föenander Galleries, Auckland

2020 Exotics, Martin Browne Contemporary, Sydney, Australia

2019, Hot House, Project 90 Gallery, Sydney, Australia

## **SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

2021 Winter Exhibition, Martin Browne Contemporary, Sydney, Australia

2020 Semicolon, Föenander Galleries, Auckland

2020 Paddington Art Prize, Defiance Gallery Sydney, Australia

2020 Winter Exhibition, Martin Browne Contemporary, Sydney, Australia

2020 Flora & Fauna, Föenander Galleries, Auckland

2019 Summer Exhibition, Föenander Galleries, Auckland

## **ARTICLES AND REVIEWS**

Art Ache: Must see in May (May 2021)

[Talking with Painters Podcast](#): Michael McHugh talks with Maria Stoljar.  
Sept 2020

Art Collector: Michael McHugh: Exotics (Oct 2020)

Mindfood: World of Exotics by Gill Canning (Sept 2020)

## **HONORS AND AWARDS**

2020 Paddington Art Prize, Finalist, Oct 2020