

BUILDING HISTORY

1960s

The Tauranga Art Society is the central point for the visual arts in Tauranga, hosting workshops by renowned artists such as Colin McCahon and exhibitions featuring contemporaries such as Louise Henderson and Len Castle. The Society took up a role that ordinarily a public art gallery would fill.

1970s

In the mid-1970s, an art gallery opens on Elizabeth Street which is funded by the Tauranga Regional Council, with the staff and volunteers provided by the Tauranga Art Society. Though short-lived, the gallery demonstrates a community desire for a public art gallery.

1984

Upon her passing, Ethel Urania MacMillan (Ray) leaves \$457,000 towards a public art gallery for Tauranga.

1992

Tauranga Art Society member Venetta Jessie Miles passes and bequeaths \$1 million towards her dream – a public art gallery for the people of Tauranga.

1993

A steering committee forms to realise the dream of Venetta Miles, Ethel MacMillan, and many others.

1997

The Friends of Tauranga Art Gallery form to advocate for a public art gallery for Tauranga.

1998

From the 1993 steering committee, the Tauranga Art Gallery Trust is established.

1999

The former BNZ building on the corner of Wharf and Willow Street is purchased by the Trust with funding from Tauranga District Council and the Venetta Miles Estate. Further funding is made available from the Ray/Macmillan Estate, the Joy Owens Trust, and various other donors from across the region.

2003

In February, Richard Arlidge is appointed as the Tauranga Art Gallery's first Director.

A project office is set up in Spring Street for opening the Gallery, the office later moves to Wharf Street, opposite the Gallery's building site.

In May, Mitchell and Stout Architects Ltd. are contracted to undertake the design work.

2004

Thanks to the lobbying of the Trust and Director, Tauranga City Council agrees to provide an annual operational grant for the Tauranga Art Gallery.

2005

The Gallery becomes a Council Controlled Organisation.

Demolition of the BNZ building begins.

2007

Watts and Hughes Construction complete the re-build in May. With the exception of the white tiled exterior wall on Wharf Street, internal columns, and the bank vault that now serves as the smallest gallery space, very little of the original building remains visible by the time the re-build had been completed.

On October 20th the Tauranga Art Gallery is blessed by local kaumatua Morehu Ngatoko and Kihi Ngatai and officially opened by the Rt Honourable Prime Minister Helen Clark.

2008

Final funding for the building fit-out comes through, with \$650,000 received from central government's Regional Museums Fund.

Mitchell & Stout Architects Ltd. are awarded the Waikato/BOP Architecture Award for Public Architecture.

2009

Mitchell & Stout Architects Ltd. are awarded the New Zealand Institute of Architects National Public Architecture Award.

2010

After serving seven years as the Gallery's Curator, Penelope Jackson is appointed as the Gallery's second Director.

2015

Karl Chitham (Ngā Puhi) is named as the Gallery's third Director.

2017

Tauranga Art Gallery celebrates its 10-Year Anniversary. Cooney Lees Morgan joins as the official presentation partner.

The Tauranga Art Gallery Foundation is established with a focus on the long-term advancement of Tauranga Art Gallery.

The 500 Club patron group is launched.

The Rydal Art Prize is announced as a partnership between TAG and Seeds Trust. At \$20,000 (now \$25,000) it is New Zealand's most significant award for painting. Awarded biennially, it also sees the winner exhibited at Tauranga Art Gallery.

2018

Art for Kids is launched to fundraise for the ArtBus, a free service established in 2007 which brings schoolchildren from all over the region to experience the Gallery's education programmes.

2019

Alice Hutchison begins her role as the fourth Director in February.

2021

In January, Stephen Cleland begins his role as the fifth Director.

Tauranga City Council announce plans to redevelop the civic precinct, which is to be called Te Manawataki o Te Papa, the heartbeat of Te Papa.

2023

Sonya Korohina (Ngāti Porou) is appointed the sixth Director of Tauranga Art Gallery.

It is announced the Tauranga Art Gallery is to be redeveloped at the same time as Masonic Park as part of Te Manawataki o Te Papa.

In March, Tauranga City Council and the Tauranga Art Gallery Foundation contribute \$3.83 million towards the project to reorientate the Gallery entrance onto Masonic Park.

A temporary pop-up gallery and learning space opens on Devonport Road in July, which will be the Gallery's home during redevelopments.

Tauranga Art Gallery closes for redevelopment in October.

2024

The newly redeveloped Tauranga Art Gallery and Masonic Park to reopen.

EXHIBITION HISTORY

2007

On May 28, 2007, a building open day gives 1,100 people the opportunity to look inside their future art gallery.

The Gallery is officially opened on 20 October by the Rt Honourable Prime Minister Helen Clark against a backdrop of Tauranga's Civic Choir singing and the Tauranga City Silver Band playing.

Nigel Brown gifts forty-four of his works to the Gallery collection.

The opening suite of exhibitions include the *World Press Photo of the Year*, and an exhibition by Mark Braunius.

2008

An extensive survey of works by Edward Bullmore are shown, with many becoming part of the Gallery's collection at the end of the exhibition. Other exhibition highlights include a show by acclaimed photographer, Ans Westra, and *Ko Tawa* an exhibition showcasing taonga from the collection of Captain Gilbert Mair.

2009

The exhibition *Rembrandt: The Experimental Etcher* showcases twenty etchings by Rembrandt from the Bishop Monrad Collection. Other exhibition highlights include a survey of works by Nigel Brown and shows featuring local artists John Roy and Marijon Spee.

The first Claudia Jarman Memorial Lecture is held after being spearheaded by a group of Claudia's former students, particularly Patricia Brooks, who raised funds for an annual lecture in her name. Greg O'Brien is the inaugural speaker.

2010

For the first time the *Top Art* exhibition and the *Miles Art Awards* are held. Whakatāne artist Mandy Hague wins the inaugural Supreme Award at the *Miles Art Awards*.

Exhibitions by significant national artists are also held including: Reuben Paterson, Nigel Borrell, Judy Darragh and Len Castle.

2011

Three exhibitions tour to TAG from Te Papa this year: selected works by Rita Angus from the Te Papa collection; twenty three works from Te Papa's collection by New Zealand painters from 1890-1950 – often referred to as the 'golden age' of New Zealand painting; and *Drawn from Italy* which featured works dating from the late 15th century to the late 18th century that were created by artists who were Italian, worked in Italy, or derived their subjects from Italian sources.

2012

A retrospective on local author Lynley Dodd is held, which later tours nationally and to several Australian venues.

2012 marks the one-year anniversary of the Rena disaster, artist Alex Monteith presents an exhibition marking this significant moment.

The 2012 Supreme Award at the *Miles Art Awards* is awarded to Marianna Bullmore.

2013

Tauranga Art Gallery commissions a site-specific work by Gregor Kregar for the Atrium. Made from aluminium and recycled neon lights, *Foucault's Pendulum* is created in partnership with the Tauranga Arts Festival.

2014

2014 is a strong year for ngā toi Māori at TAG. *Whakawhiti Āria: Transmission* showed three leading contemporary Māori artists – Shane Cotton, Israel Birch, and Robert Jahnke. *Black Rainbow* from Te Papa showcased five paintings by the late Ralph Hotere, alongside Michael Parekowhai's distinctive Venice Biennale work, *He kōrero pūrākau mo te awanui o te motu: story of a New Zealand river*.

Tauranga Art Gallery is awarded Museums Aotearoa's Best Exhibition under \$20,000 for the exhibition, *Corrugations: the art of Jeff Thomson*, which then goes on to tour the country for over two years.

The Supreme Award at the *Miles Art Awards* is awarded to Lea-Anne Sheather.

2015

Exhibition highlights include:

Waitangi Wahine, a group exhibition showcasing the work of Robyn Kahukiwa, Tracey Tawhiao, Suzanne Tamaki, Linda Munn and Andrea Hopkins, in commemoration of the 175th anniversary of the signing of Te Tiriti o Waitangi – The Treaty of Waitangi.

The Wildlife Photographer of the Year, which travelled from the Museum of Natural History, London.

UKU RERE – an exhibition showing the work of The Ngā Kaihanga Uku, organisation of Māori clay artists.

2016

Commissioned by TAG for the Tauranga Garden & Arts Festival, *The Apron: A Garden Project* by Richard Orjis, is a site-specific public artwork is installed on the lawn of Baycourt Community and Arts Centre.

Circuit - Repeat/Rotate/Reflect showcases several moving image works from Circuit, an arts agency supporting moving image artists. This included the work *Māngere Bridge; 246 meter bridge* by Rebecca Ann Hobbs, which you can view as part of *Art & Architecture*.

The *Folio Exhibition* showcasing high-performing visual arts high school students is shown for the first time and will go on to become an annual exhibition at TAG.

Alex Miln wins the Supreme Award at the *Miles Art Awards*.

2017

The *Paradox Street Art Festival* sees street artist Askew One paint a mural on the rear of Tauranga Art Gallery. *Paradox Inside* records numbers of 49,185 visitors over three months.

TAG is named one of the top art galleries in New Zealand by Culture Trip, an international travel and lifestyle

website attracting more than five million readers per month.

Insert Coin by Kereama Taepa is the first installation to be installed in the Tauranga Art Gallery lift.

2018

TAG's first signature show, *Art Loves You*, spans the whole Gallery and is comprised entirely of works that need to be interacted with by audiences.

Tawhai Rickard wins the Supreme Award at the *Miles Art Awards*.

2019

Christina Pataialii is named as the inaugural winner of the Rydal Art Prize for her exhibition *Solid Gold by Christina Pataialii*, shown at Te Tuhi, Auckland in 2018.

TAG's second signature show, *Mega World* opens and features works by award-winning American artists Gary Baseman and Dash Shaw. It is followed by groundbreaking VR exhibition, *Terminus* by Jess Johnson and Simon Ward.

Remembering Rodin tours from Te Papa and features a bronze sculpture by famed artist, Auguste Rodin, dating back to 1882.

2020

The team at TAG develop a series of online exhibitions and education programmes, including at-home art activities, in response to COVID-19 lockdowns.

The Supreme Award at the *Miles Art Awards* is awarded to Israel Randall.

2021

Ayesha Green is announced as the second winner of the Rydal Art Prize for her exhibition *Wrapped up in Clouds*, shown at Dunedin Public Art Gallery in 2020. Inaugural winner Christina Pataialii's exhibition, *Proximity and Distance* is shown.

Tauranga Art Gallery's third signature show *Manawatia Takatapai – Defending Plurality* is shown, including in offsite locations at Bayfair Shopping Centre and the Incubator Creative Hub.

As part of the exhibition, Tauranga Art Gallery is officially named a Safe Space Alliance 'Safe Space' for the LGBTQIA+ community.

The inaugural *Acorn Foundation Junior Art Awards* are held.

2022

Rydal Art Prize winner Ayesha Green showcases her exhibition *Folk Nationalism*.

Hannah Valentine is named Supreme Award winner at the *Miles Art Awards*.

2023

Owen Connors is named the third winner of the Rydal Art Prize for *Incubations*, shown at Robert Heald Gallery in September 2021.

Tauranga Art Gallery is gifted their first collection work by renowned local artist Kelcy Taratoa, by late philanthropist Jann Medicott.