

Artist **Mary-Louise Browne** explores the metaphoric, material and visual qualities of language, with her conceptual purposes dictating her selection of medium. Her works contain narratives and exist as social, political and psychological commentaries on contemporary life, the politics of history and feminism.

Mary-Louise graduated with a Master of Fine Arts from the Elam School of Fine Arts, University of Auckland in 1982. Since then she has exhibited widely throughout New Zealand and overseas and is represented in both public and private collections.

She is best known for her major public art commissions; some of the most recent being *Manhole* 2011, a set of manhole covers in Nuffield St, Newmarket; *Font* 2009, the pool at St Patrick's Square, Auckland CBD and *Byword* 2007, the award-winning granite seats stretching the length of Lorne Street. Other public works include *Body to Soul* 1996, a monumental stone staircase in Wellington's Botanical Garden and *From Rape to Ruin* 1990, a stone slab work in the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery Collection that makes sexual, masculine and political comment. *Milestones I - VII* was commissioned for the exhibition *Putting the Land on the Map* organised and toured by the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, 1989-90.

Mary-Louise has had many roles in the art sector, including being a founding director of Artspace, programme manager at City Gallery, Wellington, and interim director at St Paul St Gallery. She has held teaching positions at Unitec and AUT and has managed the university galleries at Gus Fisher and George Fraser. She is currently the gallery manager at Two Rooms, Auckland. She has been a judge of the Eden Arts Young Artists Awards and has given artist talks for Eden Arts' annual series Eden Artspeak, including taking part in a panel discussion on art collections earlier in 2015.