



DENYS WATKINS

This is Denys' fourth year as lead judge for this award, completing our second cycle of the four rotating host institutions. Denys is a Mount Eden resident, has taken part in artist talks in the Eden Artspeak series, and in 2014 was a judge with Bronwynne Cornish at the Young Artists Awards, Eden Arts' longest-running awards event. He is also a regular contributor to the highly collectible Artists in Eden Day artist sketch book.

Denys has worked as a figurative and abstract painter. Over the last four decades he has become known for his innovative fluctuation between different artistic mediums, primarily painting.

His process does not entail a dismissal of previous work - it is instead an expansion of art that has gone before. There is the suggestion of a message related to current social issues and deportment within his works, but it remains an undertone. The enigma-like quality gives Denys' work its evocative power and draws in the viewer time and time again.

Born in Wellington, Denys studied at the Wellington School of Design and then attended the Royal College of Art in London where he studied painting and print making.

Denys has been exhibiting solo in New Zealand and international galleries since 1971 and his work can be found in museums, universities and corporate collections throughout the country, including the collection of the Museum of New Zealand – Te Papa Tongarewa and Auckland City Art Gallery. He is represented by Ivan Anthony Gallery and has had work in recent exhibitions at the Wallace Arts Centre, Pah Homestead as well as Parlour Projects, Hastings. He was previously a Senior Lecturer in Fine Arts, Elam School of Fine Arts, University of Auckland.