

# JGG

Jonathan Grant Gallery

## Philip Maxwell

b. 1972

Philip Maxwell is an established New Zealand painter whose practice explores the relationship between landscape, memory and human intervention through a highly refined language of abstraction. Based in Port Chalmers, Dunedin, Maxwell has spent more than three decades developing a body of work grounded in the topography and atmosphere of Otago, particularly the landscapes surrounding Koptuai, the Otago Peninsula and Mihiwaka.

Working primarily in oils on linen Maxwell distils the landscape into softened geometric forms, layered tonal planes and carefully balanced compositions. Hillsides, water, clouds, fence lines and rural structures emerge through processes of reduction and simplification, where representation gives way to suggestion. His paintings inhabit a space between abstraction and observation, relying increasingly on memory and emotional resonance rather than direct depiction.

Central to Maxwell's work is the tension between the permanence and fluidity of the natural world and the sharper impositions of human presence upon the land. Curves and organic forms contrast with hard edges and architectural interventions, reflecting broader themes of ownership, land use and the layered histories embedded within the environment.

Maxwell's restrained palette, luminous surfaces and meticulous handling of paint create works that feel contemplative and timeless. While deeply connected to the traditions of New Zealand landscape painting, his practice also draws upon the visual language of modernist abstraction, resulting in paintings that are both formally sophisticated and emotionally grounded.

His work has been exhibited extensively throughout New Zealand and is held in numerous public and private collections including the University of Otago, Dunedin Public Hospital, Greenlane Hospital and Port Otago. Maxwell was the recipient of the 2021 Craigs Investment Partners Aspiring Art Prize Supreme Award and runner-up in 2024.

### Solo Exhibitions

- 1999 *New Paintings*, Visitors Gallery, Christchurch Arts Centre, Christchurch
- 2000 *Philip Maxwell – New Works*, Gothic Gallery, Christchurch Arts Centre, Christchurch
- 2003 *New Works*, Morgan Street Gallery, Auckland
- 2006 *New Paintings*, Morgan Street Gallery, Auckland

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- 2007 *Black Sea*, Morgan Street Gallery, Auckland
- 2024 *(And) The Land Folds*, Gallery De Novo, Dunedin

## **Selected Group Exhibitions**

- 2002 *Vision – Load Art Exhibition*, Garrison Hall, Port Chalmers
- 2003 *From the South*, Morgan Street Gallery, Auckland
- 2005 *Artists on Broadway*, Coutts Mercedes-Benz, Auckland
- 2005 *Found*, curated by Dr Carole Shephard, Morgan Street Gallery, Auckland
- 2012 Exhibition with Jasmine Middlebrook and Geoffrey Robinson, Gallery De Novo, Dunedin
- 2015 *Port Collective – 4 Port Artists*, Beach Street Studio, Port Chalmers
- 2015 *Round Christmas*, Gallery De Novo, Dunedin
- 2016 *Port Collective*, Mint Gallery, Dunedin
- 2017 Guest Artist, Craigs Investment Partners Aspiring Art Awards
- 2019 *XL XS*, Gallery De Novo, Dunedin
- 2020 *15th Anniversary Group Show*, Gallery De Novo, Dunedin
- 2020 *One and 1/4 Group Show*, Gallery De Novo, Dunedin
- 2021 *Trio*, with Dave Sharpe and Eliza Glyn, Gallery De Novo, Dunedin
- 2022 Kings College Art Exhibition, Auckland
- 2022 *Winter Group Show*, Gallery De Novo, Dunedin
- 2024 *Round Christmas*, Gallery De Novo, Dunedin