



RESERVE BANK

O F N E W Z E A L A N D

THE RESERVE BANK'S FOYER ART DISPLAYS

Since its foundation in 1934 the Reserve Bank has occasionally purchased or commissioned artworks, including formal portraits of past Governors by well-known artists such as Sir William Dargie, and works to commemorate special events such as the 1990 Sesquicentennial. Highlights of our small but interesting collection are on public display in the Reserve Bank foyer.

UNTITLED

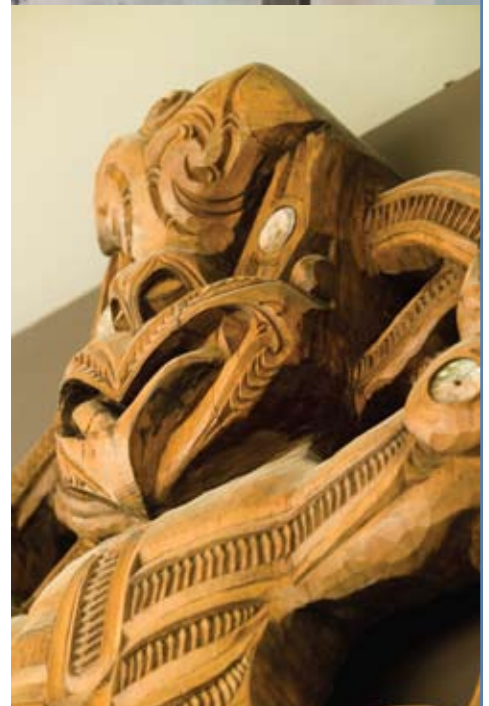
GUY NGAN, BRONZE, 1972

The sculpture on the wall of the Reserve Bank parking turnabout is by noted artist and sculptor Guy Ngan. Commissioned to mark the opening of the Reserve Bank building, and erected when the building opened in 1972, it represents the solidity and strength of New Zealand's central bank. The design incorporates a strong Maori motif, featuring a stylised Taiaha (a traditional weapon) at top and bottom. Cast in bronze, it is over ten metres high, weighs approximately 1200 kg, and includes fifty interlocking parts.

PUNATOTO: THE LIFE FORCE

PITA RUA LAGAN, WOOD AND PAUA, 1990

The carving in the entrance lobby is 'Punatoto', or 'The Life Force'. Punatoto was an ancestor of Te Atiawa who lived in Whanganui-A-Tara, the Maori name for Wellington harbour. Pita Rua Lagan, a Tuhoe carver from Matahi in the Urewera, currently living in Picton, was commissioned by the Bank to carve Punatoto as part of New Zealand's commemoration of 150 years since the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi. The carving was originally mounted above the front entrance of the Bank and first unveiled in October 1991.



As part of the renovation of the ground floor and entrance way of the Bank in 2006, Punatoto was cleaned and restored. Punatoto is made up of three panels: a koruru and two maihi. The panels represent the inter-related, balanced forces of nature moving towards a focal point of security and comfort. Kauri for the koruru (centre panel) came from a swamp on the Wairau Plains, while kauri for the two maihi (side panels) came from Tongariro National Park.

ABSTRACT MURAL

ROY COWAN, MBE, CNZM, STONEWARE, PORCELAIN AND GLASS, 1963.

WINNER NATIONAL BANK ART AWARD, 1971

The mural above the waiting area is by potter, print-maker and craftsman Roy Cowan. The Wellington-born artist served with the Fleet Air Arm during the Second World War and was awarded the MBE. He took a job post-war with School Publications, and in 1953 won a scholarship and attended the Slade School in London, where he studied art and pottery. He returned to New Zealand and in 1959 decided to become a full-time artist. He served widely in the arts, becoming a commissioner for the Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council, among other roles. His own works included large-scale artworks for Otago University, the New Zealand pavillion at the Osaka Expo in 1972, and major pieces for the Reserve Bank in Auckland and Wellington. He continued to live and work in Wellington until his death in 2006.

JETTIES 1

SIMON MCINTYRE, OIL ON CANVAS, 1985.

The abstract artwork above the reception area is Simon McIntyre's *Jetties 1*. One of New Zealand's leading conternporary artists, Simon McIntyre has exhibited widely across the country.



Colour photographs by Stephen A'Court