

The Workings of the Artist

18. **Exquisite Mysteries Suite, 1991, ink/paint on paper, 594 x 420mm, \$500 each**

These painted sketches were exhibited in 1992, they were the first drawings of Malcolm's shown publicly as opposed to his textile work which was well known by that time. The series of work explores Malcolm's musings into how the Pacific artifacts being brought back to Europe from the explorations of this part of the world would have been received... as mysteriously exquisite objects.

19. **Untitled ('EVENING SHADOWS ON AUTUMN SPRING...'), 1968, wool embroidery, 1500 x 2300mm, \$22,000 for the group**

This early embroidery whilst unfinished shows Malcolm's design process of the time—working from a sketch. It also illustrates a different style from his later works which are more pared back in their density of stitching.

20. **The Four Seasons, 26 Mar 66, ink on paper, 270 x 380mm**

21. **Autumn-Winter, 11th April 66, ink on paper, 375 x 240mm**

22. **Untitled unfinished wool embroidery, date unknown, wool embroidery, 1080 x 770mm**

23. **He who bears false witness, 1964-1965, wool embroidery, 500 x 750mm, \$3000**

This very early work again shows the stylistic development of Malcolm's work. It is very two-dimensional compared to 'EVENING SHADOWS ON AUTUMN SPRING...' which was made a few years later. However, it evokes somewhat the style of the naïve characters illustrated in some of his later stitched work..

24. **Untitled needlework with male figure, date unknown, thread on linen, 325 x 600mm, \$3,000 with sketch book**

25. **Life drawing for embroidery, 1993, pencil on paper, 280 x 220mm**

While living on Waiheke Malcolm joined 'The Group', a weekly catch up and life drawing session which was held in downtown Auckland and attended by a number of notable New Zealand artists. Malcolm became close to several, including sculptor Terry Stringer and Waiheke artist Jo Smith.

26. **Bound tapa cloth book with coded text and sketches, date unknown, hand stitched and bound tapa cloth, linen and cotton, 250 x 218mm, POA**

27. **Small fold out tapa book with ink drawings, date unknown, hand stitched and bound fold out tapa and linen book with black ink drawings and cotton and moiré patterned silk/taffeta, 160 x 139mm (folded out 325 x 330mm), POA**

28. **Tapa and linen scroll, date unknown, linen, cotton and black ink, 130 x 72 x 65mm (unrolled 130 x 1635 mm), POA**

29. **Large linen bound fold out tapa book with ink code drawings, 1990, linen, tapa, cotton, ink and paint, 365 x 255mm (folded out 670 x 910mm), POA**

30. **Large tapa book with pointillism drawings, '1971-1986 ASSEMBLED with remaining five drawings in 1990', tapa, paper, black ink and moiré patterned silk/taffeta lining, 413 x 300mm, POA**

31. **Collection of sketch and notebooks, poetry dated from 1969 -, containing ink and pencil sketches, working drawings, notes, and poetry, various sizes up to A4, POA**

32. **Children's stories with illustrations, date unknown, painted illustrations and text on card & paper 295 x 420mm, POA**

The creation of these children's stories and illustrations show Malcolm's explorations as a mixed media artist beyond his textile work.

33. **BLUEPRINT ALTARPIECE IV: NOILE ME TANGERE, 1984, bronze, 260 x 90 x 90mm, \$3500**

Malcolm experimented with the creation of a number of small bronze sculptures. You can see the influence of cloth has also come through in this medium.

34. **BLUEPRINT ALTARPIECE I: SUDARY OF ST. VERONICA -- TWO SAINTS AND DONOR, 1984, bamboo, fibre twine and bronze, 280 x 240 x 80mm, \$4000**

35. **Large boxed assemblage, date unknown, fabric lined wooden box with mixed media items, 480 x 227 x 154mm, \$1500**

Malcolm produced a number of these assemblages and decorated boxes and folders throughout his career. He would often gift them to friends.

36. **Assemblage in 'Regenta' wooden box, date unknown, fibre lined wooden box with mixed media interior, 45 x 245 x 155mm, \$1000**

37. **Forbidden Colours—the life and times of Yukio Mishima, 1984, quilted box in black quilted wrap, 115 x 255 x 180mm, \$1500**

38. **OEDIPUS, 1969, linen, gold thread and card, 50 x 270 x 340mm, \$1000**

39. **Unfinished untitled cushion covers, date unknown, wool embroidery, 'FROM DOCTOR FATE...' 270 x 240mm, 'OHH NO!...' 300 X 470mm & 'IS IT A CELLA FULLA...' 270 x 650mm, NFS**

Malcolm will likely always be most recognised as one of New Zealand's leading textile artists who produced complex, artistic and exquisitely composed quilts and embroideries and orchestrated the magnificent works, *These are Matters of Pride* and *Whanaungatanga* (Relationships) for the New Zealand Parliament Buildings. His work in this area was stunning, comprehensive and prolific, however treasure troves like this personal collection of his illuminate the depth and breadth an artist of this calibre explores in support of their core body of work.



MALCOLM HARRISON
a celebration

Quilts

1. **HOMMAGE À ROUSSEAU, 1974-1978, machine, hand quilted and appliqued dress fabric scraps with embroidered sections, 2220 x 2000mm, POA**

This is one of Malcolm's earliest quilts, it is a homage to the works of French post-impressionist painter Henri Rousseau. It draws inspiration from a number of his paintings including the 1908 work *The Football Players* which is represented in the central block. It is an incredibly detailed work which Malcolm created over a number of years. He has embroidered the dates into many of the blocks. It utilises numerous stitching techniques including embroidery, broderie perse, applique and a traditional hand sewn rail fence quilting block. There are a number of quilts he produced before this, however this one appears to be one of his first exploring the art element alongside technique.

2. **Ballad of the Sailor, 1987, machine quilted and appliqued cloth, 2500 x 2760mm, \$20,000**

This work utilises a signature quilting technique—crosshatching machine stitched lines in perfect rows.

3. **Kissing death, 1990, machine quilted cloth, 1720 x 1750mm, \$8000**

This was originally the central wall hanging in a series of three quilts displayed in the 1990 exhibition 'Echoes and Reflections' which was displayed at the Manawatu Art Gallery (now Te Manawa) as well as a number of other galleries. This quilt is also stylistically similar to a panel Malcolm constructed alongside Rob Calder and Terry Stringer for the 1991 New Zealand AIDS Memorial Quilt which is now held in Te Papa Tongarewa's collection.

4. **Between nocturnal pools of rigid light, 1990, machine quilted and appliqued cloth, 2070 x 3400mm, \$20,000**

Hidden figures appear in the block black background space of this quilt. Malcolm has skilfully drawn them in machine stitch.

5. **Mortal Angels, 1989-1990, machine quilted and appliqued cloth, each panel approx. 3000 x 450mm, \$1800 each panel**

This wall hanging was originally comprised of 17 panels when it was displayed in the 'Echoes and Reflections' exhibition in 1990. This included four other coloured panels featuring yellow, green, white and red.



a quiet meal at the Chez

6. **3 nights in Stockholm (white levi's), 1990-1991, machine quilted and appliqued cloth, 1830 x 3920mm, \$25,000**

This very complex quilt shows off Malcolm's exquisite skills in composition and the use of cloth and thread to paint an image. He has used both the positive and negative space with the appliqued motifs to draw numerous figures which are almost hidden within an abstract composition.

7. **Canoes with red interior, 1984-1987, machine quilted and appliqued cloth, 1650 x 3200mm, \$5500**

Malcolm explored the form of a cloak in his quilts through a number of works in the late 1980s.

8. **a quiet meal at the Chez, June 30th 1989, machine quilted and appliqued cloth, 1260 x 1200mm, \$12,000**

"A casual meal in a crowded bistro. The atmosphere stills, flowers suddenly bloom, and one's heart is stolen. Outside in the winters chill a building catches fire". —Malcolm Harrison in 'Quilts New Zealand', Anne Scott, 1998

'Stitched work'

9. **Kilroy WA? HERE (series of three embroideries), date unknown, wool embroidered, framed panels, 245 x 735mm x2, \$2000 each & 252 x 1480mm, \$3000**

'Kilroy was here' was a pop culture meme which was popularised during WWII as graffiti spread by American servicemen much in the same way the Australian phrase 'foo was here' became popular during WWI, and 'Mr Chad' in the UK around 1938. This phrase can also be seen in New Zealand written on an Auckland wharf, which is visible from the Waiheke passenger ferry. These works are therefore open to the interpretation of the viewer as to what Malcolm is alluding to in the heavily symbol laden compositions.

10. **Speech, early 1960s', embroidered linen, 355 x 305mm, \$1200**

This is an early stitched work. It shows that even in his initial explorations into the medium Malcolm was exploring quite a non-traditional approach.

11. **Chinese Bird, 1960s, embroidered linen, 745 x 645mm, \$850**

12. **LE EROE, date unknown, embroidered linen, 745 x 645mm, \$3000**

LE EROE translates from Italian to 'the hero'.

13. **Untitled ('LA FOGLIA...'), date unknown, embroidered linen, 1025 X 360mm, \$2000**

LA FOGLIA - the leaf
L' UOMO - mankind, humanity
LA MARE - the pond
IL CARNE - the meat
IL CERCHIO - the circle

14. **Hekerua Bay, date unknown, embroidered linen, 810 x 540mm, \$2500**

Hekerua Bay is just east of Oneroa on Waiheke Island next to Sandy Bay. When Malcolm moved to Waiheke he lived in Coromandel Road which overlooks this area likely providing inspiration for this work. Malcolm was quoted as saying in relation to the connection of Waiheke to his work "...the seascape has a very strong pull—"the sheer amount of water and sky, the way the wind skips across the water, the way the light skips across the water. Every ripple picks up the sun, it's like looking into a whole sheet of lurex." —c. 2006, unpublished writing.

15. **Taking Sides, 2004, embroidered linen, 1800 x 510mm, \$3500**

16. **Clashing Cultures, 2004, embroidered linen, 1800 x 510mm, \$3500**

These two panels were part of the 2005 exhibition 'Minus Reason' at at Objectspace Gallery, an installation which arose from the Creative New Zealand Craft/Object Fellowship Malcolm achieved in the preceding year.

17. **Four untitled works from exhibition 'Living in Wonderland', c. 1996, wool embroidery, 115 x 145mm, \$1000
255 x 170mm, \$1500
335 x 365mm, \$1500
706 x 480mm, \$3000**

'Malcolm told me this work was the Wellington mob looking for favours and cutting each other's throats in an attempt to profile their own position and their egos.'—Graeme Harrison.



LE EROE