

Creative City



Top of the class

The Provincial Government established Dunedin's art school in early 1870, an outcome of the 1865 New Zealand Exhibition held in the city. The Otago Art Society was formed in 1875 and the Dunedin Public Art Gallery in 1884.



Who's who

David Con Hutton was appointed as the Art School's first drawing master and principal when it became the Otago School of Art and Design in 1894. He retired in 1908.

The first art school in New Zealand, the second art society in the country, and New Zealand's first public art gallery were all established in Dunedin within a decade and a half of one another in the late 19th century. Dunedin's past and present make it a leading creative centre.

Many of the region's best-known artists in a variety of media have inspired hundreds of students enrolled at what is now the Otago Polytechnic School of Art: R N Field, Clive Humphries, Neil Grant, Laurence Godman, Jim Cooper and Madeleine Child to name a few. *Site*, the School of Art's annual open exhibition of graduating students' work, has become an increasingly popular event in the city's calendar.

The institution of the University of Otago's Frances Hodgkins, Mozart and Burns Fellowships was another great boost for the imaginative and artistic life of the city. They have brought Hone Tuwhare, Janet Frame, Matthew Pine, Michael King, John Parker, Gillian Whitehead, Sam Hunt and many others to live here for a year or longer.

Of all the artists, Ralph Hotere is perhaps the most closely associated with the region. Born in Mitimiti, Northland in 1931, Hotere trained at Auckland Teachers' College and first moved to Dunedin in 1952. After time overseas he returned in 1969 and we've claimed him as our own since. He was a mainstay of the Save Aramoana campaign, and has been a supporter of Port Chalmers' lifestyle, environment and local initiatives for decades.



Student work from the Printmaking Department at the School of Art



Graduation student's work, showcased in *Site* 2007

