

* With an outline of the history of Mrkusich Paintings
Revised May 2016

- 1925 Born Dargaville New Zealand. Parents had come from Podgora Dalmatia (now Croatia)
- 1930-1941 Education St Josephs Convent Parnell, Marist Brothers school Ponsonby and Sacred Heart College.
- 1942 Apprenticeship in Writing and Pictorial Arts with Neuline Studios. Also attended Seddon Memorial Technical College commercial art course and separate life classes.
- 1946-1947 Spent two years painting full time.
- 1948 Worked at Crown Lynn Pottery works before returning to Neuline Studios.
- 1949 Partner in the architectural design firm Brenner Associates with Desmond Mullin and Stephen Jelichich. Worked as a colour consultant and on exhibition and display designs.
- 1950 Married Florence Grbic (dressmaker/design cutter and pianist) Designed and built house completed in 1952. (G.Elliot Reid "The Mrkusich House" Art New Zealand 62 Autumn 1992)
- * Work influenced by the British surrealist John Tunnard along with pointilists and expressionists.
1958. Returned to full time painting along with independent design commissions. Brenner Associates closed.
- 1959 Designed mosaic stations of the cross, Church of the Holy Cross Henderson, West Auckland and mosaic mural for B.J. Ball building Auckland.
- 1960 Designed mosaic mural for Chelsea House Fort St Auckland and coloured glass windows/mosaic stations of the cross for St Josephs Church Grey Lynn Auckland.
- 1960-1961 * Painted Abstract Expressionist works.
- 1962 * Monotypes and Paintings exploring possibilities for development.
- 1963 * Painted 'Emblems' using universal geometric forms as later found in Carl Jung's "Man and His Symbols"
- 1964 Designed coloured glass window for St Andrews Seamans Chapel Quay St Auckland (now permanently installed at the Edmiston Gallery of Maritime Art, Hobson Wharf Auckland) Designed "Four Square" mosaic mural for Foodstuffs, Mt Roskill Auckland

- 1965 * Painted the renowned 'Elements' and 'Four Elements' works based on squared circle motifs.
- 1966 * The Diagrams. A proliferation of forms and elements arranged on a pre-determined grid. Painted the "Triptych: Three Temperaments" dealing with colour as symbol and the "Triptych: Homage to Rodchenko", a harbinger of future stylistic developments.
- 1967 First prize, Manawatu Prize for Contemporary Art.
- 1968 * Monochromes, 'Meta Grey' and 'Dark Paintings'. Most elements and forms had now been eliminated. This resolved into a style of work which was to continue until 1976.
- 1969 Merit Award, International Young Artists Exhibition, Tokyo, Japan.
- * 'Chromatic Meta Grey' and 'Meta Grey Light Series'. Squares of colour atop an area of "Meta Grey".
- 1970 Painted "Untitled 1970" for the Ten Big Paintings exhibition (with folder) at the Auckland City Art Gallery.
- 1971 Awarded Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council of New Zealand Fellowship.
- 1972 First comprehensive catalogue, published by Auckland City Art Gallery for the retrospective exhibition "Milan Mrkusich Paintings 1946 - 1972".
- 1973-1974 * 'Four Circles' works. The "Elements" are reduced to circles. (A preliminary Four Circles work was completed in 1968)
- 1975 * 'Three Zones' and 'Four Zones'
- 1977 * Embarked on some new ways to present monochromes. Linear and incised/assembled surfaces.
- 1980 * 'Two Area', 'Three Area' and 'Four Area' works.
- 1981-1982 * Arcs, Lines, Constructions, Segmented Circles & Segmented Arcs
- 1982 One of three New Zealand Artists chosen to exhibit in the 48th Carnegie International by Gene Baro, curator of Contemporary Art, Museum of Art, Carnegie Institute Pittsburgh Pennsylvania. Toured to Seattle Art Museum Washington State 1983. Catalogue illustrates Monochrome Blue, Four Areas 1979, Two Areas, Orange and Maroon 1980 and Two Areas Dark 1981.
- Awarded Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council of New Zealand/ Air New Zealand travel grant to visit USA and major Art Galleries and Museums in Los Angeles, Washington DC, Pittsburgh and New York City.

- 1983 * Paintings. A renewed interest in Colour as Symbol
- 1984 * Untitled Paintings. A re-iteration of classical form and colour.
- 1985 T.L.Rodney Wilson, Director Auckland City Art Gallery recognises that "...All of Mrkusich's painting is best understood in the largeness of his whole production..." and curates the second retrospective exhibition with comprehensive catalogue "Milan Mrkusich - a decade further on 1974-1983"
- 1986 * 'Journey' paintings. A new direction, "The Paradigm Shift"
- 1987 * 'Segmented Circles' (works on paper)
- 1989 * 'Chinese Elements' The Five Activities, Earth, Water, Fire Wood and Metal with their corresponding colours of Yellow, Black, Red, Blue-Green and White. The active dynamic agencies at work in all natural processes. Further explorations of the use of colour as Symbol.
- 1990 * 'Alchemical Spectrum' works. The Alchemical process expressed in a language of colours. The set of colours that are common to all the Alchemical works are; Green, Black, White, Red and Gold.
- 1991 * 'Progressions'. The culmination of an idea that had beginnings in 1985.
- * The Colour/Achromatics. The Five Elemental Principals, each with their own colour designation. Yellow, Red, Blue Black and White. Green - signifying The Temporal Condition - would be added to these in 1992.
- 1992 * The Chromatic Suites. Colour as the Vibration of Life. Expressing itself at a certain frequency of energy through matter.
- * Three Part Paintings. Three tendencies of being - the Ascending, the Descending and the Circular.
- Participates in Headlands: Thinking through New Zealand Art at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney Australia.
- 1992-1993 Is pivotal as "Milan Mrkusich Pioneer Modernist" in the Newstalk 1ZB 1950's Show with NZ Home & Building Souvenir Edition as catalogue, at the Auckland City Art Gallery.
- 1994 * The Four Untitled Paintings
- Won the competition for a commissioned work in coloured enamel on glass for the Museum of New Zealand, Cable St Wellington.

- 1995 * 'Chromatic Investigations'. A prolific series of works reflecting a lasting involvement with the possibilities of colour.
- 1996 William McAloon curates the "Six Journeys" exhibition at the Auckland City Art Gallery - New Gallery (with colour folder)
- 1997 Made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to painting (ONZM)
- 1998 * 'Meta Greys' A new interpretation of a formula first devised in the late 1960's.
- Provides "Untitled 1970-71" for the Dream Collectors exhibition at the Museum of New Zealand, touring to Auckland and Dunedin (catalogue illustration)
- 1999 * Paintings . A return to a more symmetrical vertical form.
- "Journey One Version II 1986" is shown in "Home and Away" Contemporary Australian and New Zealand Art from the Chartwell Collection at Auckland City Art Gallery -New Gallery, touring to NZ centres 2000 & 2001 with catalogue illustration.
- Partner in a two-man show with John Nixon at Hamish McKay Gallery Wellington, "Milan Mrkusich/John Nixon Eight Paintings 1968-1998" catalogue published.
- 2000 Participates in a further two-man show at Sue Crockford Gallery Auckland "Milan Mrkusich/Gordon Walters, Works from the 1950's" catalogue published.
- 2001 * Paintings . A new dynamic asymmetry. Horizontal/Vertical bars and a renewed use of the triangle.
- Four Colour/Achromatic works from 1997 selected by Lara Strongman, curator City Gallery Wellington for inclusion in "Prospect 2001 - New Art New Zealand" (online catalogue)
- 2001-2002 "Painting Blue 1976", "Segmented Arc on Black 1982" and "Journey Five 1987" shown in "Sightlines: Looking Into the Art Collection", Museum of New Zealand Wellington.
- 2003 One of ten artists honoured as an inaugural Arts Foundation of New Zealand Icon.
- * Chromatic Series .Further dynamic asymmetry using a solar colour sequence: Yellow, Orange, Red, Violet, Blue & Green.

- 2004 * Paintings & Two Part Paintings
- 2005 * 'The Seven Colour Alchemical Spectrum'. A new series of seven works which progress from the original (five colour) Alchemical Spectrum works of 1990.
- 2006 Shows "Painting Achromatic with Yellow 2001", "Chromatic Series IV,Violet 2003", "Painting Green 2004" and "Painting V Blue (dark) 2004" in "Milan Mrkusich & A.D.S.Donaldson" at Hamish McKay Gallery Wellington, catalogue published.
- 2007-08 * 'The Five Chinese Elements'. A new interpretation of the Chinese Elements of 1989.
- 2009 The comprehensive monograph "MRKUSICH The Art of Transformation" by Alan Wright and Edward Hanfling is published by Auckland University Press along with curated exhibitions at the Gus Fisher Gallery Auckland University and City Gallery Wellington 2010.
- 2013 Ten paintings from 1963 to 2002, including two 1960's, two 1970's, five 1990's works and one work from 2002 are assembled for "Mrkusich and Modernism" In celebration of a remarkable vision, an On-line auction with Ocula Black The Art Marketplace at www.oculablack.com
- 2014-2015 Alice Hutchison curates the fourth major exhibition, "Chromatic Investigations And Paintings From The 90s" at Aratoi Wairarapa Museum of Art and History in Masterton showing the four Untitled Paintings of 1994, the four orders of the Chromatic Investigations of 1995-96 and three Colour/Achromatic works from 1997. Catalogue published.