

Thursday Arts

Strength in classical form

Ceramics, by Richard Parker, at the Fisher Gallery, Pakuranga, until March 24.

MOST of the major ceramics exhibitions staged in Auckland have had work from this Northland potter, but it is good to see a range in his pieces together without the distraction of other pots around.

There is a starkness to this show, well mounted and lit, which allows the strength of the work to come through.

All 18 pieces are developments on Richard Parker's theme of sculptural representations of vases and planters. He takes a classical vase or Greek urn form, builds it roughly in terracotta clay by flattened coil construction, then slab-cuts the exterior shape leaving the outside texture looking as if it has been cut by sawing with a wire from a solid block of polystyrene.

The inside shows the construction process in unglazed terracotta. Top openings are cut, again quite roughly, to leave trefoil or quadrifoil holes, adding to the classical feel with a touch of ecclesiasti-

Around the Galleries

cal architecture design.

The whole vase is then coated in a thick creamy layer of off-white slip and later decorated with raw colours of shiny glaze; dabs, dribbles and stripes in copper greens and iron browns, or an occasional cherry red.

Mostly the matt body-slip is predominant — and unfortunately it looks grubby after much handling — but some pieces are glazed all over giving them an appearance similar to Mediterranean galena-glazed pottery.

This is all very classically vase-like, but a contemporary sculptural quality is achieved because the forms are not round in section. They are hard-corner square with a distorted perspective, oblique, whereby the frontal viewer sees the front, side and top at the same time. A visual dichotomy confronts — or affronts — the audience. A known form, classical, quiet and historically predictable, takes on an unknown quality which either excites or

disturbs.

As with all good sculpture these pieces have a presence. They may be liked or loathed, but they will not be ignored. To examine, not just look at, this exhibition will extend, or maybe confuse, one's appreciation of these classical forms, revisited.

Accessories, at Compendium Gallery, Devonport, until March 9.

THE art in craft is on show here with a wall of rich colour in fabrics and leather, accessories such as scarves, belts, hats and handbags which themselves have additional accessories — buckles in bronze or enamels, and a few matching jewellery pieces.

Most are accessories for women, though there is one dyed silk tie by Lani Morris, of Wellington, and half a dozen plain wooden or bamboo walking canes topped with antique silvered knobs by

Mervyn Cull, of Auckland. When Cull found these knobs and finials they were still wrapped in their 1910 waxed paper — he added the sticks.

From Australia comes fine loom weaving from Liz Williams; soft, deep colours in wool with traditional banded or check patterns as scarves, the most arresting being those where the fabric has been puckered into a seersucker, or heavily ruched, which intensifies the colour. Small samples of this ruched material are further used as matching brooches, framed in worked aluminium.

Scarves are also shown by Sally Govorko, Auckland, but they have an intense clarity of colour. Hand-painted abstract shapes on silk are intensified by being surrounded by black. Edges are machine hemmed, unlike the silk scarves of Lani Morris, who rolls and hand-fucks hers. Her silk is dyed in soft drifts of pastel colour.

Auckland's Toni Millar also shows hand-painted silk scarves: these are in strong reds and blues and have a series of matching buttons.

Michelle Mayn, from

Helensville, shows fine crafting with leather; plain, but beautifully made shoulderbags incorporating pockets for notes, coins, credit cards and other handbag jetsam, and also leather bracelets.

Leather is also used by Noel Dockery to plait or stamp into earrings and bracelets, some looking leathery, others having super shot colours almost like anodised titanium. It is further used by Helen Williams and Robyn Tunstall, both of Auckland, to make belts; Tunstall's work is mostly simple in one colour, but adorned with freeform buckles of vitreous enamels; Williams' works are more complex — stitched patches of different colours and textures and incorporating bronze lizards, an old penny coin, or metal buckles.

Mary Andrew, from Marlborough, has several felted and blocked hats, and hats are also shown by recent Carrington Polytechnic graduate Frances Jackson. Hers are pillbox in shape using various fabrics with wired "plumage" additions or actual feathers.

—Howard Williams

Artline Gallery, 21 Prosdorf St, Ponsonby — works on paper by Victoria Edwards; construction by Michael Armstrong, until March 9.

Artspace, 8-9 Quay St, City — Paea Kainga a decade of work by Emare Karaka, March 4 to 22.

A3A Gallery, 13 Blake St, Ponsonby — Nola Holmwood portrait award, until March 14. **Auckland City Art Gallery**, 5 Kitchener St, City — *Pathway to the Sea/Aramoana*, Bill Culbert and Ralph Hotes; *Imposing Narratives*, recent New Zealand photography, until March 17.

Auckland Museum, the Domain, Parnell — *Mau Mahara*, our stories in craft, until April 7.

Carla's Fine Crafts, St Heiers — pottery by Raweyn Atkinson, until March 2.

Charlotte H. Galleries, 18 High St, City — Henry Szydlowski, until March 16. **Compendium Gallery**, 49 Victoria Rd, Devonport — accessories, bags, belts, shawls, hats, until March 9.

What's On

Fisher Gallery, Reeves Rd, Pakuranga — *Reviews*, 30, works by Auckland artists; ceramics by Richard Parker, until March 24.

Fox Street Gallery, 6 Fox St, Parnell — Hans Wegner 20th century Danish furniture, until March 29.

Galerie la Poste, corner Hurstmore Rd and Earnooch St, Takapuna — pottery by John Green, until March 9. **Gallery on One**, 1km north of Wenderholm — *Fold and Paint*, shaped and painted canvases by Pat McGovern, until March 24.

Gallery Sixteen, Main Rd, Huapai — window display by Keith Blight, until February 28.

George Fraser Gallery, 25A Princes St, City — *The White Room*, photographs and found china, by Helen Taylor, until March 1; paintings by James Kirkwood, March 5 to 29.

Gregory Flint Gallery; by 125 The Strand, Parnell — Terrence Handscomb, until March 6.

Lazelle Gallery, 47 Customs St East, City — Pauline Thompson, until March 15.

Lopdell House, Titirangi — *Wild West 9*, works on paper by Auckland artists, February 28 until March 31.

Mastersworks, 251 Parnell Rd — Innovative works by New Zealand craftworkers until March 23.

Mt Eden Community Arts Council, Essex Rd Reserve (Mt Eden Village) — on March 9, paintings by prominent Auckland artists, including Claudia Pond Eyley, Peter Siddell, Mary McIntyre and Pat Hanly; profits from an art auction go to the young Mt Eden Artists Award.

NZ Fellowship of Artists Gallery, 605 Dominion Rd, Balmoral — tutors paintings,

until March 3.

Oedipus Rex Gallery, 430 Queen St, City — *The Land*, paintings by Brian Gregory and Michael Duffin, until March 16.

Orewa House Gallery of the Arts, Orewa — paintings and sculpture by Susan Blair, Pardo Jackson and Gary McKenzie, until February 28.

Pots of Ponsonby, 298 Ponsonby Rd — lacescapes, mixed media works by Robin Paul and Helen Schamroth, March 4 to 16.

RKS Art, 41 Victoria St West, City — paintings, drawings and prints by Ken Robinson, until March 15.

Sue Crockford Gallery, 45 Customs St East, City — Patrick Pound, until March 15. **The French Art Shop**, 51 Ponsonby Rd — *People and Places*, by the Group of Six, until March 9.

The Pumphouse, Kilarney Park, Takapuna — *Round and About Wood*, exhibition of turned wood, until March 17. **Upstairs at Tanoa**, 160 Green Lane Rd — *Pacific*

Connections, lithographs by Satu Fenu'u, until March 3.

Uxbridge Centre, 35 Uxbridge Rd, Howick — *Women on the Move*, photography by Ani Waterfield, until March 8.

Waikato Museum of Art and History, Hamilton — *Visual Poetry*, German contemporary graphic art, until March 10. *R. H. Field, The Durand Years 1942-1945*, paintings and applied arts, until March 3; *Te Mīhau Hou, Rua Kenana at Maungapuanga*, historic material and contemporary New Zealand art, until May 1.

Warwick Henderson Gallery, 32 Bath St, Parnell — *Fishing boats*, *Ferry boats and Dinghies*, paintings by Ron Stenberg, until March 2.

West Auckland Art Rooms, Assid Corban Community Centre, Henderson — fabric paintings by Virginia Lynsky, Nicola Gibbons, Karen Mitchell, March 4 to 15.

Whangarei Art Gallery, Rust Ave — paintings, pottery and glass by Northland artists, until March 9.