

Wayne Youle

HERE
I give
Thanks

17 October – 1 December, 2019



Introduction

We're delighted to welcome Wayne Youle to The Vivian for his first ever solo show with us – in conjunction with Suite Gallery in Wellington.

Fitting for someone about to embark on a McCahon residency, the title of this show directly references McCahon's 1961 painting, 'Here I give thanks to Mondrian'. In a world where it can sometimes feel everyone is only in it for themselves, Wayne thought it was refreshing to see such an open and honest homage.

The 2019 powder-coated steel works in this show are just that. However – as always with Wayne's work – there is an undercurrent of mischief at play.

'The crack up', is a work made for Wayne's Grandfather who he says was proficient in the 'questionable humour' of his era. In 'A flamboyant piece of work,' there's another reference to the stories read to Wayne by his Grandmother – about a boy with a nose at maximum lying length. 'A small operation', also harks back to a favourite childhood pastime of baited breaths and steady hands.

'If you hold still, take a deep breath and everything will be alright (he says with shaking hands)', is a work Wayne made for his father and his ever recurring poise

and work ethic, while 'No matter the weather', is a tribute to the women in his life. By contrast, one of civilisations most ludicrous present day artefacts is brought to task in 'For the man that (appears) to have everything'. With the leader of the free world looking like a Big Boy burger logo from the 1950's (and perhaps a less-than-subtle phallic resemblance).

More joyful artist references abound – one of Wayne's favourite artists, Philip Guston (1913-1980) inspired 'Wishful thinking (I dreamt Guston picked me up for college)', while Ned Kelly features in 'Riding, Riding, Riding' an energetic, and instantly recognisable interpretation of Sidney Nolan's, Ned Kelly. 'I was thinking about you just the other day... when suddenly', pays homage to the form of the looming, slightly comedic vulture in Disney's 1937 original Snow White, and contrasts this with Rodin's masterpiece, 'The Thinker'.

This show offers us a dizzying ride around Wayne's creative mind – a fusion of internet-speed references, art history tropes and sheer anarchic mischief.

Scott Lawrie
Director

{Suite}
Image © Wayne Youle

thevivian.co.nz
[@theviviangallery](https://www.instagram.com/theviviangallery)

Proudly supported by
sawmillbrewery.co.nz



THE

VIVIAN