Welcome Swallow Gallery

~ Showcase ~

1st November – 1st December 2026

G A E N

Gaen, Cass Railway Station, 1984

Land of Captured Time

Sponsored by

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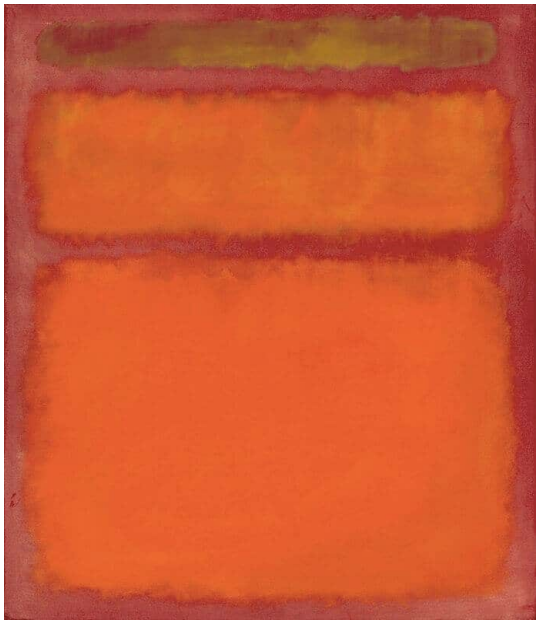
~ Land of Captured Time ~

Although **Gaen** takes his expressive abstract artistic inspiration from the post second world war *colour field movement* he eschews one of the movements greatest proponents, **Mark Rothko** who deliberately blurred the edges of his vast colour fields. Rothko's intention, as seen in his most famous painting, *Orange, Red and Y*ellow, 1961, (at right) was to create 'liminal' spaces that allowed uncertainty, raw emotion and absence of boundary.



Mark Rothko, Orange, Red and Yellow, 1961

In direct contrast, Gaen uses firm geometric lines that present a architectonic method to build the elemental structures of New Zealand landscapes. His colour field and geometry make the subject matter known and accessible. The result is aesthetic and emotional strength.

Arguably, the geometric pastiche begins with **Paul Cezanne's** contemporary reshaping of landscapes, as seen is his 1895 composition, *The Quarry at Bibémus*. In the decades that followed, **Piet Mondrian's** *Landscape with Tr*ees 1912 and **Paul Klee's** *Joyful Mountain Landscape* painted in 1929, both embraced a more canonical expressive abstract approach that builds on the parallel Russian Avant-Garde movement.

In more recent times, geometric colour palettes have been placed on natural structures, as seen in Canadian artist, **Elyse Dodge's** composition, *Rainier,* 2018 and with **David Hockney's** digital inkjet prints**,** *First Detail, Snails Space*, 1995. In these contemporary paintings variegated colour patterns dominate the actual physical forms of nature.

Gaen occupies a related yet different space. His use of geometry with precise lines together with the natural colours of nature, lift his paintings into the *Land of Captured Time.* *E N J O Y T H E S H O W C A S E!*

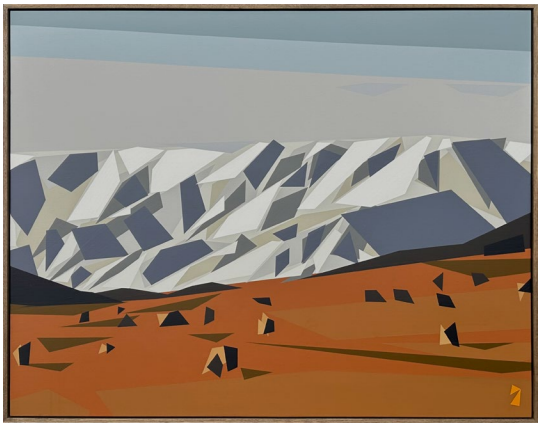
Paintings referred to appear on the back page

~ Land of Captured Time ~

29

Cass Railway Station, 1984
Acrylic on Canvas Oak Tray Framed
830x1230mm
Price: $6800

30



A Path Less Taken
Central Otago
Acrylic on Canvas Oak Tray Framed
930x1180mm
Price: $6500

32

High Hopes
Central Otago
Acrylic on Canvas
Oak Tray Framed
1180x930mm
Price: $5900

31

Gold & Coal, Wedderburn, Central Otago
Acrylic on Canvas Oak Tray Framed
830x1230mm
Price: $6500

33

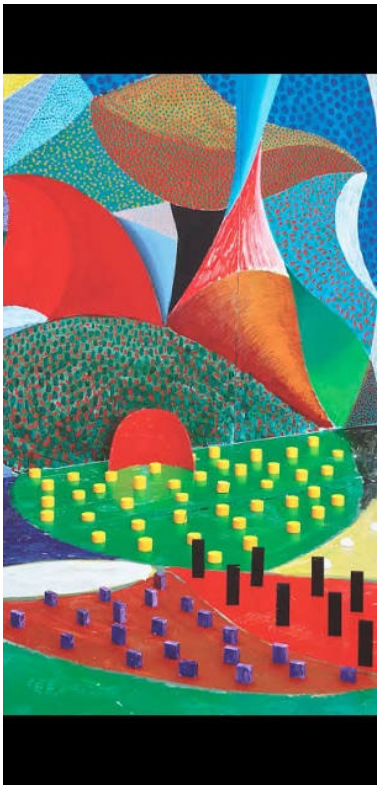
The Great Rise & Fall, Central Otago
Acrylic on Canvas Oak Tray Framed
830x1730mm
Price: $7500

Images not to scale

Piet Mondrian, Landscape with Trees, 1912

I see myself as a visionary artist whose work is an evocative celebration of nature's splendour. From the snow-capped peaks of the Southern Alps to the lush valleys of the Waikato, my purpose is to capture and express the essence of New Zealand's diverse terrains through my abstract art works –

GAEN



David Hockney, First Detail, Snails Space, 1995

Elyse Dodge, Rainier, 2018

Paul Cezanne, The Quarry at Bibémus, 1895

Paul Klee, Joyful Mountain, 1929

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