Graeme Priddle – Studio Woodturner/Sculptor

Graeme Priddle has 20 years experience in the woodworking field, best known for his sculptural turnings/carvings reflecting his life and environments in Northland, New Zealand. He has won numerous awards for his work, which has been exhibited widely in New Zealand, UK, Japan, Taiwan, France, Germany, U.S.A and Canada.

He is very active in the wood turning world and commits his time and talent to many creative endeavours. He has served on the committee of the New Zealand National Association of Woodturners for five years as well as being instrumental in establishing the New Zealand ‘CollaboratioNZ’ Conferences in 1998. Graeme has demonstrated and taught for numerous woodworking and woodturning groups and at many woodworking events throughout the world.

Graeme was born in Lower Hutt, New Zealand in 1960. He moved to Northland in 1986 while working for Telecom as a radio technician. He took voluntary severance in 1989 after twelve years service and started woodturning in 1990.

Graeme now lives and works on a 100 acre bush block 30km North-East of Whangarei.

PERSONAL STATEMENT

“I have always felt a natural affinity with wood and after twelve years working as radio technician I felt the need to do something more creative with my life.

Originally I was drawn towards ‘free-form’ furniture as our bush block is littered with deadfall timber, the leftovers from the Kauri logging days of the early 1900’s. However with the 1990 economy very depressed there was a limited market for original hand-crafted furniture.

Fortunately, at that time I met a group of very creative woodturners and realised that there are endless creative possibilities to lathe work.

I am mainly self taught with a lot of advice and inspiration from many other woodturners. In my first four years or so of turning the emphasis was on using very decorative timber and applying simple form so as not to overshadow the natural beauty of the timber. While this is still a dominant factor in some of my work I now spend more time on creating pieces where my design is the dominant factor and using timber and other materials sympathetic with my designs, these pieces tell stories about who I am, where I live and the things in life that I am most passionate about.

Major influences in my designs come from my natural surroundings, especially the sea and coastal environs, dreams and life experiences. ”

HISTORY

Feb 91 - Group Exhibition - Artstop Gallery - Northland.
Jun 91 - Group Exhibition - Quarry Craft Co-op - Whangarei.
Nov 91 - Design Arts & Crafts - "Original Works Show" - Auckland.
Dec 91 - Design Arts & Crafts - "Original Works Show" - Wellington.
Jan 92 - Design Arts & Crafts - "Original Works Show" - Auckland.
Feb 92 - Group Exhibition - Stanley Street Gallery - Auckland.
Jun 92 - Group Exhibition - Merilyn Savill Gallery - Wellington.
Jul 92 - "Artex" - Auckland.
Aug 92 - Kawerau National Woodskills Festival - 2nd prize & commended in woodturning section.
Aug 92 - Group Exhibition - Compendium Gallery - Auckland.
Feb 93 - “The Art Of Turned Wood” - Juried Exhibition - Aotea Centre - Auckland.
Jun 93 - "Artex" - Auckland.
Sep 93 - "Artex" - Wellington.
Oct 93 - Group Exhibition - Cologne - Germany.
Feb 94 - “Turned Art & Furniture Expo” - Juried Exhibition - Auckland - Merit Award.
Jul 94 - "Artex" - Auckland.
Nov 94 - Guest Exhibitor - Ngatea Arts Festival.
Nov 94 - "National Woodturning Exhibition" - Taranaki Museum.
Mar 95 - Demonstrated at "Working with Wood Show" - Perth - Australia.
May 95 - Demonstrated at "Working with Wood Show" - Brisbane - Australia.
Jul 95 - "Artex" - Auckland.
Jul 95 - Demonstrated at "Working with Wood Show" - Sydney - Australia.
Sep 95 - Kawerau National Woodskills Festival
  - 1st prize & 2 x commended in open woodturning section
  - Commended in fantasy section
Jan 96 - Guest Exhibitor - Whakatane Arts Festival.
Jun-Aug 96 - Invited to Exhibit in "Growth Through Sharing" Exhibition
  - Greensboro - North Carolina - USA
  - Awarded Creative New Zealand Grant to attend exhibition and American
    Assn. of Woodturners annual symposium, and also to attend
    "Collaboration & Conservation" conference -Emma Lake, Saskatchewan -
    Canada.
Jul 97 - "Artex" - Auckland.
Aug 97 - Commissioned for woodsculpting as part of Shona Firman's exhibition
  " Cross Over ", - Whangarei Art Museum.
Sep 97 - Kawerau National Woodskills Festival
  - 1st prize & commended in open woodturning section
  - 2nd prize in woodturning - bowls section
    commended in fantasy section
Nov 97 - " Masks at Mahara " collaborative exhibit with Barbara Salt " Omni Caeon ".
Jun - Jul 98 - " Outside the Circle" - exhibition of invited Northland artists
  - Whangarei Art Museum.
Oct 98 - " TURNZ National Woodturning Exhibition" – Putaruru
  - First Time Winner Award
    Decorative Bowl Award
    Best Exhibit Award
Mar 99 – Invited Resource Artist – CollaboratioNZ, Northland, NZ
Mar/Apr 99 - " Diversity " - exhibition of invited Northland artists
  - Northpower corporate offices
Mar/Apr 99 - "The Art of Turned Wood" - Juried exhibition
  - NZ Academy of Fine Arts Wellington
    Merit Award
Feb 00 - Commissioned by the 'Halberg Trust' to create presentation boxes for the
  New Zealand Sportsperson of the Century Awards.
Jun 00 - Invited Demonstrator - 'Artistic Woodturning Worldwide 2000' conference
  Puy-St-Martin. France.
Jun-Aug 00 - Artist in Residence for the Wood Turning Center's 'International Turning
  Exchange' residency program from 10th June - 8th August 2000, including
  attendance at the Emma Lake Collaboration conference, Saskatchewan,
  Canada.
Mar 01 – Invited Resource Artist – CollaboratioNZ, Northland, NZ
Mar 01 -'Turned Multiples II' - International group exhibition -
  Craft Alliance, St Louis, Missouri, USA
  Saskatchewan Craft Council, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada
  Wood Turning Center, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA
Jun/Jul 01 – 'Turned Wood 2001' – del Mano Gallery, Los Angeles,
  USA.
Jun 01 - Jan 02 - 'Art of Wood' - Curated exhibition of works from the Lipton Collection
  LA International Airport
Jul 01 - 'Te Kauri' - The Kauri in Northland Creative History
  Whangarei Art Museum
Jul/Aug 01 – ‘Out of Woods’ - Tamarillo Gallery - Wellington
Sep 01- Dec 03 - ‘Challenge VI’ - ‘Roots: Insights & Inspirations to Contemporary Turned Objects’
International touring juried exhibition

exhibition venues - Philip & Muriel Berman Museum of Art, Collegeville, Pennsylvania
- Indianapolis Museum of Art - Columbus, Indiana
- Museum of Art, Washington State University, Pullman, Washington
- Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum, Wausau, Wisconsin
- Schneider Museum, Art of Southern Oregon University, Ashland, Oregon
  - Houston Center for Contemporary Art
  - The Wood Turning Center Gallery, Philadelphia, PA

Sep 01 - Kawerau National Woodskills Festival - Merit - Open woodturning
  2nd Prize - Spindle Turning

Sep 01 - NAW Sth Pacific Symposium - Palmerston Nth, NZ
  1st Prize - Sculptural Turning
  1st Prize - Carved Turning

Oct 01 – ‘Forum 2001’, Collectors of Wood Art in conjunction with MIA/Yale/WTC Symposium, Minneapolis, USA.

Feb 02 – ‘Art of Northland’ - invited Northland artists - Aotea Centre – Auckland
Mar/Apr 02 - ‘Small Treasures’ – del Mano Gallery, Los Angeles, USA.

May 02 - 'Starfish Vessel' image featured on 40c stamp in New Zealand Post
  'Art meets Craft' stamp issue.

May 02 - Invited Demonstrator - Israeli Woodturners Association.
Jun 02 - 'Lead Demonstrator' - American Assn of Woodturners annual symposium in Providence, Rhode Island, USA.

Jul 02 - Invited Demonstrator - Prince Albert Woodturning Symposium, Saskatchewan, Canada

Jul/Aug 02 – Invited Demonstrator – ‘Turned & Sculpted Wood’, del Mano Gallery, Los Angeles, USA.

Aug 02 – Invited ‘Resource Artist’ - ‘Emma Lake’ Collaboration Conference
  Saskatchewan, Canada

Aug 02 – Invited Demonstrator - Honolulu and Big Island Woodturners, Hawaii.

  3rd Prize

Mar 03 – Invited Resource Artist – CollaboratioNZ, Northland, NZ

Mar/Apr 03 - ‘Small Treasures’, del Mano Gallery, Los Angeles, USA.

May 03 – Invited Demonstrator - ‘2003 Utah Woodturning Symposium’, Provo, Utah, USA.

May/June 03 – Invited Demonstrator - American Assn of Woodturning Chapters
  Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, Santa Fe and Vancouver.

May-Aug 03 – ‘Tony Boase Tribute’
  - The Wood Gallery, Hay-on-Wye, Hereford, UK.
  - The Ronald Pike Gallery, Ely, Cambs, UK.
  - International Woodturning Seminar, Loughborough University, Leicester, UK.

Sep 03 – Kawerau National Woodskills Festival – 1st Prize - Open Woodturning
  1st Prize – Multicentre Woodturning

  ‘People’s Choice’ Award

Oct 03 – Invited Artist – Mittagong Collaboration Conference, NSW Australia.

Oct 03 – Invited Demonstrator – Blue Mountains & Newcastle Woodturning clubs,
  NSW Australia

Oct 03 – SOFA, Chicago, USA. Invited exhibitor with del Mano Gallery.
Nov 03 – ‘Art of Turned Wood’ – National juried exhibition – Aotea Center, Auckland
1st = Prize

Nov 03 – Invited Artist - ‘Big Red’ an exhibition celebrating the Pohutukawa, Rotorua Art Museum

Jan/Feb 04 - ‘Selected Works’, del Mano Gallery, Los Angeles, USA.

Mar 04 – Invited Demonstrator – Turnfest, Mt Tamborine, Qld, Australia

Mar 04 – ‘25 years of Woodturning’- International exhibition celebrating 25th anniversary of the Utah Woodturning Symposium, Museum of Art, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, USA.

Mar/Apr 04 – ‘Small Treasures’ – del Mano Gallery, Los Angeles, USA

Jun 04 – SOFA, New York, USA, Invited Exhibitor with del Mano Gallery.

Jun 04 – Invited Attendee – Utah Woodturning Symposium 25th anniversary, Provo, Utah, USA


Jul 04 – Invited Faculty – Arrowmont School of Arts & Crafts, Gatlinburg TN, USA

Sept 04 – Invited Judge – Kawerau National Woodskills Festival, Kawerau, NZ

Sept-Nov 04 – ‘Ipu Karea’ – Solo Exhibition – Waikato Museum of Art and History


Nov 04 – Invited Exhibitor - ‘NZ Sculpture Onshore’ - Devonport, Auckland

Mar 05 – Invited Resource Artist – CollaboratioNZ – Northland, NZ.


Sept 05 – Invited Judge – Kawerau National Woodskills Festival – Kawerau, NZ

Sept 05 – Invited Demonstrator – Wood Turning Center’s International Turning Exchange 10 year Retrospective Conference, University of Arts, Philadelphia PA, USA.

Sept 05 – Invited Exhibitor – ‘Connections’ – Wood Turning Center’s International Turning Exchange 10 year Retrospective Exhibition, Philip & Muriel Berman Museum of Art at Ursinus College, Collegeville, PA, USA.


Oct 05 – Invited Participant – Collaboration Conference, Newcastle, Australia


Jun 06 – SOFA, New York, invited exhibitor with del Mano Gallery.

Jun 06 – Invited Demonstrator - Utah Woodturning Symposium, Provo, Utah, USA

Jun/ 06 – Invited Faculty – Appalachian Center for Craft, Smithville, TN, USA.

Jun 06 – Invited Panelist – AAW Symposium, Louisville KT, USA.

Jun/Jul 06 – Invited Faculty – Arrowmont School of arts & Crafts, Gatlinburg, TN, USA.

Jun/Jul 06 – Invited Demonstrator- American Assn of Woodturning Chapters in Hattiesburg MS, Asheville NC, Milwaulke WS.

Jul 06 – Workshop Facilitator – Black Forest Wood Co – Galgary, CA.

Jul 06 – Invited Artist - ‘Emma Lake’ Collaboration Conference, Ness Creek, Saskatchewan, Canada

Sept 06 – Invited Judge – Kawerau National Woodskills Festival – Kawerau, NZ


Apr 07 – Invited Artist – ‘CollaboratioNZ’ – Northland, NZ.

Jun 07 – SOFA, New York, invited exhibitor with del Mano Gallery.
Jun 07 – Invited Demonstrator – ‘Yankee Woodturning Symposium’ – Connecticut, USA
Jun 07 – Workshop Facilitator – Johannes Michelsen School of Woodturning – VT, USA
Jun/Jul 07 – Invited Demonstrator – AAW chapters in Wilmington DE, Bucks County PA and New Jersey
Jun/Jul 07 – Invited Faculty – ‘Peter’s Valley Craft School’ – Delaware, USA
Jul 07 – Invited Demonstrator – Israel Association of Woodturners.
Sept 07 – Exhibitor - Kawerau National Woodskills Festival – Kawerau, NZ
Sept 07 – Invited Demonstrator – Magma Fine Woodworking, Austria.
Oct 07 – Invited Demonstrator – ‘Ohio Woodturning Symposium’ – Cincinnati OH, USA
exhibition venues - Messler Gallery – Rockport, Maine
AAW Gallery – St Paul, Minnesota
Ohio Craft Museum – Columbus, Ohio
Southern Ohio Museum – Portsmouth, Ohio
Houston Center for Contemporary Craft – Houston, Texas.
Nov 07 – SOFA, Chicago - Invited exhibitor with del Mano Gallery.
Apr 08 – Invited Demonstrator – ‘Southern States Symposium’ – Georgia, USA
May 08 – Invited Faculty – John C Campbell School of Craft – NC, USA.
May 08 – Invited Demonstrator – Bay Area, Silicon Valley and Wine Country Woodturners, CA, USA
May 08 - Invited Faculty – Johannes Michelsen School of Woodturning, VT, USA
May 08 – Invited Faculty – ‘Peter’s Valley Craft School’ – Delaware, USA
Jun 08 – Invited Artist – Echo Lake Collaboration, Pennsylvania, USA
Jun 08 – Invited Faculty - Appalachian Center for Craft, Smithville, TN, USA.
Jun 08 – Invited Faculty – Arrowmont School of arts & Crafts, Gatlinburg, TN, USA.
Aug 08 – Invited Resource Artist – Emma Lake International Collaboration Conference, SK, Canada
Aug 08 – Invited Demonstrator – Vancouver Woodturners, BC, Canada
Sept 08 – Invited Demonstrator – Palm Beach Woodturners, FL, USA
Sept 08 – Invited Demonstrator – Magma Tools, Austria.
Nov 08 – Invited Exhibitor – NZ Sculpture Onshore – Devonport, Auckland
Mar 09 - Invited Demonstrator – Blue Mtns Challenge, Sydney, Australia
Mar 09 – Invited Resource Artist – CollaborationNZ – Northland, NZ.
Apr 09 – Invited Demonstrator/Judge – Sth Auckland Woodturners / Ak Easter Show
Jun 09 - Invited Faculty – Johannes Michelsen School of Woodturning, VT, USA
Jun 09 – Invited Faculty – Marc Adams School of Woodworking, Indiana, USA
Sep 09 – Invited Demonstrator – Oahu & Big Island Woodturners, HA, USA.
Sep 09 – Invited Demonstrator – Magma Fine Woodworking, Austria.
Sep 09 – Invited Artist – Collaboration Conference, NSW Australia.
Mar 10 – Invited Demonstrator – Saratoga Woodturning Symposium, NY State, USA
May 10 – Artist in Residence – 5 week collaborative residency with Michael Cullen – Breville, France
Jun 10 – Invited Lead Demonstrator – American Assn of Woodturners Annual Symposium, CT, USA
Jun 10 – Invited Faculty - Arrowmont School of arts & Crafts, Gatlinburg, TN, USA.
Jun 10 – Invited Faculty – Johannes Michelsen School of Woodturning, Manchester, VT
Jul 10 – Invited Demonstrator – New Mexico Woodturners, Albuquerque, NM
Jul 10 – Invited Faculty – Craft Supplies – Provo, Utah
Jul 10 – Invited Artist - ‘Emma Lake’ Collaboration Conference, Ness Creek, Saskatchewan, Canada
Sep 10 – Invited Demonstrator - West Coast Roundup III, Vancouver, Canada.
Sep 10 – Invited Demonstrator – Bristol Woodturners Guild, UK
Sep 10 – Invited Demonstrator – Magma Fine Woodworking, Austria.
Oct 10 – Invited Demonstrator – European Woodshow, Cressing, UK
Oct 10 – Invited Demonstrator – French Woodturning Seminar, France
Oct 10 – Invited Demonstrator – Duluth Woodturners, Duluth, Mn, USA
Oct 10 – Invited Demonstrator – Maine Woodturners, USA
Oct 10 - Invited Demonstrator – Chicago Woodturners, IL, USA
WORK IN PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Whangarei Art Museum - NZ
The Wood Turning Center - Philadelphia PA, USA
The Detroit Institute of Arts - The Bohlen Collection - Detroit MI, USA
American Craft Museum - The Lipton Collection - New York, USA
Arrowmont School of Arts & Crafts collection, Gatlinburg, TN, USA.
American Assn of Woodturners collection, St Paul, MN, USA

Graeme's work can also be found in numerous private and corporate collections throughout the world.

ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES

May 97 - Jul 98 - Elected to committee of the National Assn. of Woodturners NZ Inc.
Mar 98 - Established ‘CollaboratioNZ’ as a charitable trust to promote and organise collaborative art and craft events in NZ.
Mar 98 – April 05 - Coordinator & Trustee for ‘CollaboratioNZ’
Jul 98 - May 01 - Elected Secretary of the National Assn. of Woodturners NZ Inc.
May 01 - May 02 – Co-opted to committee of the National Assn of Woodturners NZ Inc.
Apr 09 – Elected to committee and trustee of CollaboratioNZ

PUBLICATIONS

2004 – Beneath the Bark – 25 Years of Woodturning pg 106
2007 – American Craft Aug/Sept pg 15
2007 – American Woodturner Summer issue Vol 22, No. 2 pg 78
2007 – American Woodturner Fall issue Vol 22, No. 3 pg 13, 78
2008 – New Masters of Woodturning pg 156-161
2008 – American Woodturner Spring issue Vol 23, No.1 pg 1, 8, 11, 80
2008 – American Woodturner Summer issue Vol 23, No. 2 pg 18
2009 – Masters-Woodturning pg 64-71