

Gerard Copas

Subtraction to Abstraction

Curated by Billy Apple



Left: Gerard Copas. *No.22*. 2020. Enamel on canvas, 600 x 600 mm.
Right: Gerard Copas. *No.10*. 2020. Enamel on canvas, 600 x 600 mm.



Gerard Copas is a word-based artist whose artworks feature words or phrases as their primary artistic component. His paintings reference text-based post-modernist art employed by several contemporary artists since the 1950s. Copas' hand-painted letters allude to the hard-edge painting movement of the 60s and his drawing and draughting skills form an essential component of his practice.

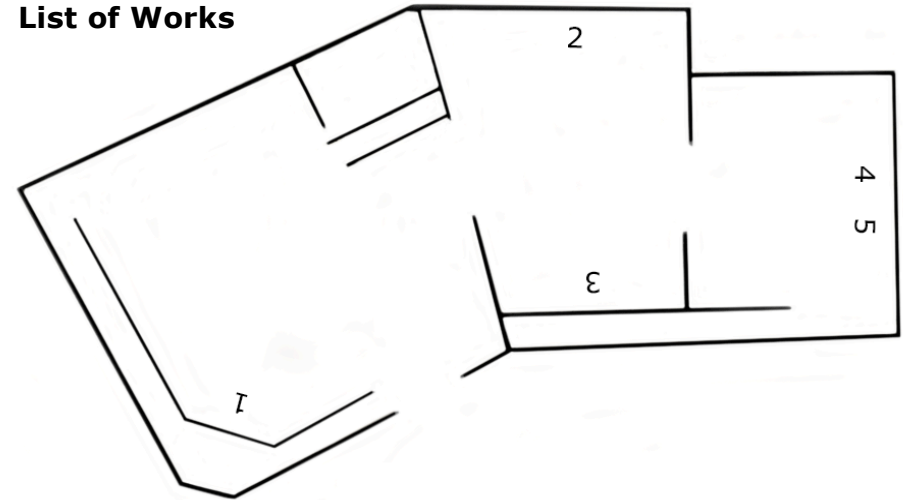
In 2004 Copas moved from a background in graphic design to fine arts and began studying at the University of Auckland. During this time he began teaching drawing programmes in the adult education sector, something he continues to this day.

Copas' current practice is a progression from his earlier word based works, endeavouring to segment text and extracting the positive and negative spaces from letters. This creates a symbolic visual language and a delivers a minimal, abstracted result. Draughted with intention, leaving little room for spontaneity, the works are absent of any form of gesture. Copas' paintings are meticulously created by hand.

As Copas describes, "words in my case become the object of my art. I use text and language as a vehicle for examining issues of perception and reality in relation to how we receive and communicate words."

"Language and conversation has always been part of my work in one sense or another... Letters (or characters) are merely individual symbols in their own right, nothing more. However when composed together they make a word, and then those words when placed together form a sentence. Now we communicate."

List of Works



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| 1. <i>Untitled</i> (20 individual pieces), 2020
250 x 250mm
Enamel/Latex on canvas | \$1,200 |
| 2. <i>Untitled No.29</i> , 2021
Enamel/Acrylic on canvas
1260 x 900 mm | \$4,950 |
| 3. <i>Untitled No.23</i> , 2020
Enamel on canvas
795 x 850 mm (2 panels) | \$3,000 |
| 4. <i>Untitled No.10</i> , 2020
Enamel on canvas
600 x 600 mm | \$2,500 |
| 5. <i>Untitled No.22</i> , 2020
Enamel on canvas
600 x 600 mm | \$2,500 |