MY SHINY MADNESS

ACTIVE GCC 25–26 MEMBER



Lisa Watkins is a contemporary New Zealand artist working under the name MyShinyMadness. Through a practice she calls Circular Elevation, she transforms storied and overlooked materials into contemporary artworks that explore colour, joy, connection, and possibility.

Working across assemblage, sculpture, installation, and public art, Watkins creates emotionally resonant works from reclaimed industrial, commercial, and domestic materials. Raw, reflective, and unapologetically shiny, her work is a vibrant response to the chaos of modern life. She is fascinated by transformation — not only of materials, but of the stories, memories, and potential they carry.

Inspired by the belief that value often exists in places we are taught to overlook, her practice seeks to create moments of wonder, curiosity, and connection while finding order within life's complexities. Through colour, beauty, and material reinvention, she invites viewers to imagine new possibilities for both objects and themselves. She is drawn to the texture, colour, history, and structural potential held within overlooked materials and the stories they contain.

Public projects include Still We Belong — Between Us, Anchored, a permanent installation in Avondale's main shopping precinct, alongside Te Moko Kākāriki (Boot Gecko), a permanent public sculpture project that has obtained Auckland Council consent and will transform retired infrastructure work boots into a landmark public artwork and prototype for a future sustainable sculpture trail. Through this lens, waste becomes infrastructure and overlooked materials become landmarks.

Recent recognition includes First Place (Assemblage) at the Waitākere Arts Awards 2026, Special Mention at CREA Open 2026 (Venice), selection for the Auckland Art Show 2026, finalist status in the Hibiscus and Bays Art Awards, Ultimate Winner of the Localised Sustainability Award 2025, exhibiting at the prestigious NZ Sculpture Onshore, and receiving Active Membership from the Gallery Climate Coalition (GCC), London, UK.

Based in West Auckland, Watkins' work champions transformation — elevating discarded materials into meaningful contemporary artworks that celebrate possibility, invite conversation, and bring moments of joy into everyday life.

Lisa Watkins

Social media: Instagram myshinymadnessartist,| Facebook Lisa Watkins| TikTok (@myshinymadness)
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ARTIST STATEMENT

My work exists because I need to find order in the chaos.

I've always been drawn to creating. As a child I spent a lot of time alone, imagining, making, and finding my own ways to fill the space around me. Art became a way of understanding the world and, years later, it remains the way I find my way back to centre.

Life can be complicated, messy, and often far louder than I'd like it to be. My studio is where I make sense of that. It's where colour, materials, ideas, and stories are given the chance to become something new.

I don't think of my work as being about waste. I'm interested in transformation. In possibility. In what happens when we look again at something we thought we understood.

If a piece makes someone pause, smile, remember something, or simply brings a little more joy into their day, then it has done its job.

Stay Shiny, Lisa

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS, AWARDS, HONOURS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- 2027: Papakura Art Gallery — forthcoming solo exhibition.
- ArtTradie — Selected Artist, Kōanga Spring Collection (2026)
- Room of finds — Featured Artist October 2026
  Tāmaki Makaurau Zero Waste Awards — Nominee, Community Collaboration: Hā Ora, Hāpori, for Te Moko Kākāriki (2026)
- 2026: Fo Guang Yuan Art Gallery, Art Salon — invited exhibitor and opening guest speaker.
- 2026: ArtRewards — accepted artist, with Artsy access.
- 2026: Creative Communities Scheme — funding awarded for the community workshop phase of Te Moko Kākāriki.
- Hibiscus & Bays Art Awards, selected finalist,Auckland (2026)
- Accreditation to the GCC (Gallery Climate Coalition) active member. London, UK May 2026
- Waitākere Arts Awards Auckland (May 2026) (Winner Assemblage)
- Shortlisted then Special Mention for Artistic Quality — CREA OPEN 2026 (Venice), International 4,000 applicants, 109 countries
- Auckland Art Show – Selected Artist (2026)
- Urban Sustainability Gallery – EcoFest Activation, Auckland (March - April 2026)
- Fo Guang Yuan Art Gallery – Art Salon (Invited Exhibition, 2025)
- NZ Sculpture OnShore – Selected Artist, Auckland (November 2025)
- Kumeū Arts Awards – Finalist (October 2025)
- Upstairs Gallery – Selected Finalist (August 2025)
- Frankly Small Arts Festival (August 2025)
- Whau Arts Festival – Community Art Expo (2025)
- Top Honour, Localised Sustainability Art Award (2025)
- Highly Commended, Lake House Arts Members Merit Awards (2025)
- People's Choice, Lake House Arts Members Merit Awards (2025)

- Lake House Arts – Deconstructed Musings (Solo Exhibition, August 2025)
- The Rose Centre – Solo Exhibition (Invited, August 2025)
- Kumeū Arts – Solo Exhibition (July 2025)
- Waitākere Arts 60th Anniversary Showcase, Auckland (Winner Assemblage) (2025)
- EcoFest – Smales Farm Solo Exhibition, Auckland (2025)
- Lake House Arts – Celebrating Resilience (Solo Exhibition, February 2025)
- Earth Day Exhibition – Naumi Hotel, Auckland (April 2025)
- Full Scholarship Recipient – Certificate in Creativity (Level 4), The Learning Connexion (Completed 2025)
- Entry Selection – Craig's Aspiring Art Prize (2024)
- Steel Gallery Winners Exhibition (2024)
- Hibiscus & Bays Art Awards selected artist, Auckland (2024)
- Franklin Arts Festival – 2nd Place, Pukekohe (2024)
- People's Choice, Waitākere Arts Awards (2024)

PUBLIC PROJECTS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Urban Sustainability Gallery – EcoFest Activation (March 2026)
Nikau Superette Public Installation (January 2026)
Te Moko Kākāriki – Auckland Council Landowner Consent secured (LOA 25-131), installation pending funding (Kumeū Arts Centre)
The Great Art Project – Still We Belong – Commissioned Public Installation, Avondale (2025)
NZ Sculpture OnShore – Public Outdoor Installation "Relax, Rewind", Auckland (2025)

EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

- Certificate in Creativity (Level 4) – The Learning Connexion (Completed 2025, Full Scholarship Recipient)
- Wayfind Artist Development Programme – Depot Artspace (2023)
- Artist in Residence (Day Residency) – Lake House Arts (August 2025)

MEDIA

- Kumeū Courier – Feature Interview & Editorial April 2026)
- Avondale Mainstreet Magazine March 2026
- Kumeū Courier – Feature Interview & Editorial (February 2026)
- Junction Magazine – Artist Feature (November 2025)
- Feature Rangitoto Observer 22 April 2025
- Lake House Arts In Studio Interview https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1873473963453150

Review by Janet McAllister 2023

"These bold works belie the chaotic stereotypes of upcycled art: they are

precise, fully-formed and confident in purpose and direction.
The graphic colours and shapes demand our attention, then the depth, cleverness and object relationships keep us riveted.
This is eco- feminism at its best: creative, humorous and thought-provoking."

SKILLS & MATERIALS

- Sculpture, assemblage, mixed media
- Community engagement & workshop facilitation
- Working with upcycled materials: plastics, textiles, mirrors, electronics, industrial offcuts and resin

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SPEAKING & EDUCATION

Artist talk & case study —Kauri Park School, July 2025
Students first studied my website as a case study in creative reuse; I followed with an in-class talk and Q&A on upcycling methods, community-sourced materials, and zero-waste practice.