

The Learning Connexion

Frank Davis Scholarship

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About the Frank Davis Scholarship

Frank Davis was Head of the Art Department at Palmerston North Teachers College (now Massey College of Education) from 1963 until his death in 1983. Frank Davis' work was said to be outside the mainstream, often challenging contemporary ideas about New Zealand society. He had a close interest in things Maori and was fluent in Te Reo. During the 1960s Frank Davis was writing the history of contemporary Maori art as part of the school curriculum. (His widow Waana Davis is a board member of the Maori Arts organisation 'Toi Maori Aotearoa').

He supported and wrote stories about upcoming Maori artists who were then unknown, including Darcy Nicholas, Ross Hemera, Robert Jahnke, Albert McCarthy and John Walsh, at a time when the Maori art movement was ignored by the art gallery establishment. Frank's influence has been of lasting importance to three senior people at The Learning Connexion – Managing Director Jonathan Milne, Director Alice Wilson Milne and previous Advanced Diploma tutor, Peter Adsett. All studied art with Frank Davis during their time at Teachers College.

Jonathan:

"It was easy to do art in Frank's classes because he was so supportive of us being ourselves. If we had something to say through art he would help us make it happen. For me this was a big contrast with university art where there always seemed to be an invisible set of rules known only to the anointed masters. Frank liberated us to find our own voices. Once we found our voice he helped us polish our skills and connect with the world."

Alice:

"Frank encouraged me to find 'a voice.' His confidence in me bolstered my desire to contribute what I could to the New Zealand world I lived in. Frank and his wife Waana were very generous in their hospitality.

I remember his paintings for their raw expression, passion, honesty and the way he stripped an issue bare to expose reality. They were BIG, intelligent and forceful statements."

Peter:

"In the 1970s Frank and Cliff Whiting were developing the Marae. I would sit with him and question what it is to be Maori and what it meant to be a New Zealander. I said I was a European as that is where my people came from but Frank said 'No... you are a Kiwi.' I went onto several Marae with them and they both told me to stop worrying about it and to, 'think in Maori.'

Frank was a very serious man who was interested in who we were. He had a big presence and a deep conviction - a strong belief that we must engage with the Maori way of being in the world. I always think of Frank and Cliff together. It was incredibly important to me that there was no distinction made for me as a European; for them there was no difference between Maori and Pakeha.

He supported my painting 150%. I don't know what he saw but he told me I had what it takes to make a good artist and he wrote it down – that I would be a prominent artist. He and Cliff Whiting both suggested that I should leave New Zealand to do my own independent work."



What does the scholarship cover?

The Frank Davis Scholarship is awarded annually to cover all or part of student's tuition fees.

Applicants will ideally be

- A person who shows commitment and potential
- Applying to study the New Zealand Certificate in Creativity level 4, the New Zealand Diploma in Creativity levels 5 & 6, and the Diploma of Art and Creativity, level 7 programmes
- A person who has demonstrated, or can demonstrate in an application, a clear idea of how their work questions conventions and/or challenges contemporary views of New Zealand society

Entry requirements

- Successful applicants must be eligible for enrolment - see admission requirements for more details
- Applicants must be 16 years or older at the time of enrolment
- The scholarship must be taken up within one year of being granted
- Scholarships are open to permanent residents of New Zealand who meet Ministry of Education funding criteria

How to apply

Fill out and submit the following in our online application form.

- Read the rules and conditions outlined in this document
- Applicants are to submit three recent works, in any media, that relate to the theme **'Questioning conventions and/or challenging contemporary views of New Zealand society'**
- Answer the following questions in relation to each image submitted;
 - How does this work relate to your application statement?
 - What concepts were explored in the making of this work, i.e. What influenced it?
 - What processes were used to create the work?
 - If you were to revisit this work what changes would you make and why?

- Submit a statement of 200 words or less outlining how your work relates to the theme
- Include two letters of support from referees outlining why you are an ideal candidate to receive this scholarship
- Our scholarship forms have been expanded to allow applicants to provide additional evidence in the form of three supporting images per submission, which may include (*but are not limited to*); developmental drawings or sketches, trial/sample works that have relevance to the finished piece or images showing stages of progression through the work. While these images are not required they do add merit to the submission and will be considered as part of your application.

Please note: As the application is through an online form we recommend applicants prepare the information above in a text document prior to submission in case of any complications. Images of your work must be available digitally, sized to 1MB or less.

Rules and Conditions

The Frank Davis Scholarship can be used for the following programmes:

- » **The New Zealand Certificate in Creativity (level 4)**
- » **The New Zealand Diploma in Creativity (level 5)**
- » **The New Zealand Diploma in Creativity (level 6)**
- » **Diploma of Art and Creativity, Advanced (level 7)**

- Referees can not be family, friends or The Learning Connexion staff members eg. a tutor or mentor
- Submissions must be your own original work
- By applying for the scholarship each applicant warrants that their entry does not infringe upon or violate the rights of any third party
- It is permissible to submit material that has been used in other contexts (such as for an exam or exhibition)
- The Learning Connexion Ltd (hereinafter 'TLC') may make use of the work in submissions for promotional purposes without compensation to the artist and without any requirement to seek approval for such use
- Students who are eligible for the government's 'Fees Free' initiative will have the 'Fees Free' amount that they are eligible to receive deducted from their total fees owed. Where this still leaves an outstanding amount of fees owing, the student may then use any scholarship granted to cover the remaining fees. Any remaining scholarship will be forfeited
- Scholarships must be taken up during the year following their successful granting
- Scholarships are open to Permanent Residents of New Zealand who meet Ministry of Education funding criteria
- To be eligible, submissions must be received by the due date. Late submissions will not be accepted
- Submissions will be assessed on merit and awards will be made at the discretion of the managing director whose decision will be final
- Scholarships are not redeemable for cash
- Number of scholarships granted in any given year will be determined by the managing director
- Should you be granted a scholarship, it does not guarantee any further scholarships or awards for continued study at The Learning Connexion
- Scholarships may be taken up either by enrolling for distance delivery or by studying on-site at our Taita Campus
- Successful applicants will be advised by email by the end of the year which they apply

If you require any assistance with the application please contact our Admissions team - 0800 278 769 or email admissions@tlc.ac.nz