



Fury in the Garden, 1988

FURY IN THE GARDEN WAS MADE FOR AN EXHIBITION THAT FOLLOWED DIBBLE'S ARTIST RESIDENCY at The Dowse Museum in Lower Hutt. Seven large works made up Dibble's solo show titled "From Fire and Water". They thematically "explored the calm and fury of the human spirit" as the artist wrote. The sculptures were big, with poles with swinging cut out parrots exuberantly perched.

The sculpture Fury in the Garden is an early Dibble work, dating back to 1988.

DETAILS
painted plate steel,
steel rods and cut out parrots
2700 x 1900 x 1650 mm of figure.
1988

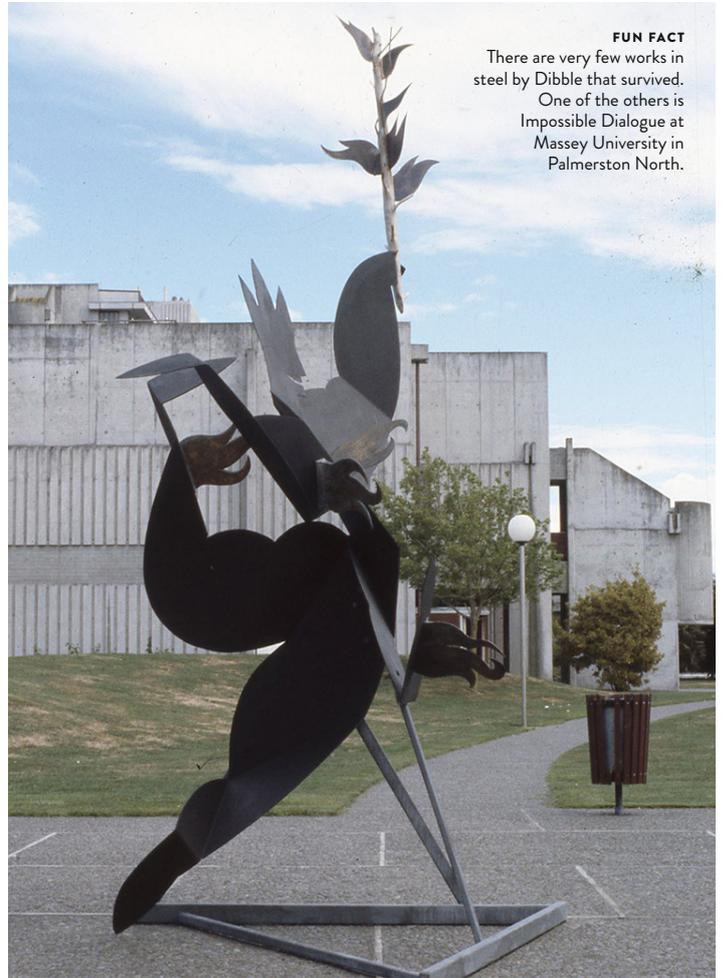
This work was situated on the concrete paved area outside the entrance, greeting visitors to the gallery. It travelled to the next show, "Sculpture for Cities" at the Manawatu Art Gallery the following year, but was altered by the artist with added cut out flames bolted onto the body, and the parrots and poles removed.

Fury in the Garden was a pivotal work for Dibble, that sits on the cusp between two changes of stylistic approach. In the period before, the artist had made large installation pieces which occupied whole rooms (the parrot construction works).

Later works were a grouping titled 'The Foldings'. The larger of this series were made from sheet steel, cut and bent with pieces bolted together, almost like giant metal origami.

The work was later gifted to Girls' High School, Palmerston North.

In 2024 the Dibble Studio, working with the school, started work reinstating the work, as many of the flames were missing and the work needed to be repainted. Midway through 2025 it was installed in a more prominent position at the school, so it could be viewed from outside the school grounds.



FUN FACT
There are very few works in steel by Dibble that survived. One of the others is Impossible Dialogue at Massey University in Palmerston North.

FUN FACT

Only three flames existed when work was started to reinstate the sculpture, but the bolting holes indicated where the missing flames once were. Dibble Studio used the existing flames as patterns, making sand moulds directly from them to replicate the new flames.

