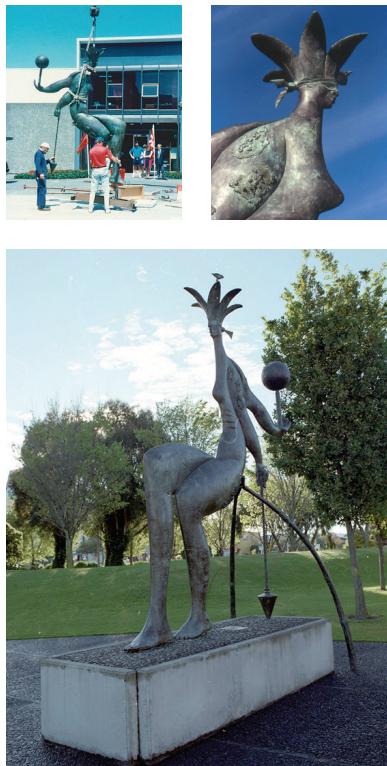


ADDRESS

Te Manawa Art Gallery,
326 Main Street,
Palmerston North



DETAILS

Bronze
3950 x 3100 x 1500 mm
1992
Single edition



Pacific Monarch
Outside Te Manawa Art Gallery, 326 Main Street, Palmerston North

[VIEW WORK](#)

Pacific Monarch, 1992

THE FUNDS TO BUILD A SCULPTURE ON THIS SITE CAME from a bequest from the estate of Gertrude Raikes, a local citizen known for her flamboyance, who died in 1985.

The sculpture Paul Dibble made is a semi-abstracted figure that looks to be balanced on two spindly props. The figure's headdress of leaves is intentionally ambiguous as to whether it is a ceremonial Pacific crown or more reminiscent of the Greenman of Celtic Europe. The figure is blindfolded, an indication of the state of the settlers who were immigrants to an unknown land, blind to their futures. In one hand she holds a plumb bob demonstrating an intent to settle. The other hand balances a globe. Many settlers had moved halfway round the world to their new home. Notably the United States and New York have been omitted from the globe (a quiet

protest by Dibble on the emphasis given to international art by curators at the time). A clear view of New Zealand is evident from the ground where people look up at the work from below.

The sculpture was opened by the mayor, Paul Reiger, on December 20, 1992. A video was made of the construction, titled "Intent to Construct", which was shown on national television.