
Alongside corrugated iron, the fundamental material that has held New Zealand together for over 150 years is No.8 fencing wire. Its place in our national psyche comes from the thousands of kilometres of fencing that has been imperative in supporting the backbone of the NZ economy over many years.

Fortunately, our country's isolation has helped create the 'do it yourself' attitude and history has shown there are one hundred and one other uses for this iconic material beyond fencing. Over time, No.8 gauge wire has become synonymous with kiwi ingenuity and innovation. The Fieldays No.8 Wire National Art Award is an opportunity for artists to add to the ongoing story of this material in their own unique way.

Working with one material can create all sorts of challenges for the artist due to the limitations of the material itself. With wire however there are a number of ways it can be used and for an artist, one of the greatest assets is its malleability. Some of the qualities of wire that can be seen in the works selected for this exhibition include bending, twisting, looping, knotting and not least, wire to create line.

The above are all used to create a variety of very individualistic three-dimensional ideas that most certainly add to and extend the way we perceive this incredibly common and generally considered non art material.

The artists selected here have hopefully created works that transcend our experience of No.8 wire. If so, one can refer back to the words ingenuity and inventiveness and we can throw in imagination to boot.

Jeff Thomson – *Selector and Judge*



FIELDAYS® No.8 Wire NATIONAL ART AWARD 2012

