



Napier born artist and designer Don Ramage is the latest modernist designer to be rediscovered by the Hawke's Bay Museum & Art Gallery, Napier. Don Ramage has had a significant career as an award winning graphic and commercial artist. An ongoing humility has, however, seen his achievements go largely unrecognised.

With *Don Ramage: Steel Jungle* Hawke's Bay Museum and Art Gallery sets out to rectify this oversight, not only giving this significant designer credit for his contribution to the history of New Zealand design but reintroducing his work to a contemporary audience hungry for retro design heroes.

# **DON RAMAGE** **steel jungle**

**14 December 2007 – 11 May 2008**

Don Ramage was square peg in the round hole of 1960s New Zealand Art, spending much of his career exploring industry, technology and progress; themes at odds with the New Zealand regionalist landscapes popular at the time. Raised in conservative heartland New Zealand in the 1930s and drawn into the Second World War at 18, the battlefields of Europe were to leave an indelible mark on Ramage. His post-war works reflected the destruction of war and the rebirth of industry both of which were to become hallmarks of Ramage's career.

Like many artists, Ramage supported his artwork through teaching. From the Art Master at Wellington College in the late 1940s, to his appointment as a founding staff member of New Zealand's first and most prestigious design school he has committed himself to advancing the creative industries in New Zealand. In his position at Wellington Polytechnic School of Design (now Massey University) Ramage fed his experience as a printmaker and graphic designer into the development of robust, sustainable and industry-led programmes. During his time as Head of School in the late 1970s, Ramage was directly responsible for setting up what are now considered the country's foremost textile design courses.

In 1981 Don Ramage retired from a 35 year teaching career. In 1991 he returned to his hometown of Napier where he lives today.



# DON RAMAGE steel jungle

HAWKE'S BAY MUSEUM & ART GALLERY NAPIER