

Newsletter of the Sarjeant Gallery
Te Whare o Rehua Whanganui
ISSN 1171-3275

Sarjeant Quarterly

volume **55**

December 2014 - January 2015



From the Senior Curator

by Greg Anderson

Well, where did 2014 go? It seems scarcely believable that we have come to the end of yet another year. Not only have we managed to have our new temporary premises at 38 Taupo Quay designed, built and made functional; but as well as committing to business-as-usual, we have completed the developed design phase of the Sarjeant Gallery Redevelopment Project and achieved unencumbered resource consent of the same.

To say that 2014 has been a landmark year in the history of the Sarjeant Gallery Te Whare o Rehua would be something of an understatement. Within these twelve months we have enacted a hastened plan to remove ourselves and our nationally significant collection from the beautiful but severely earthquake-prone building; and developed an exhibition programme and set of public events to ensure that we can make the most of our new accommodation. We have hosted events as diverse as the launch of the Latin America and Spain Film Festival attended by their excellencies the Ambassadors of Brazil and Chile; demonstrations of traditional Maori wind instruments by Elise Goodge; several sublime sets of musical interludes for the *Musicians for the Sarjeant* series and numerous artist and curators talks.

Members' News

by Raewyne Johnson
& Libby Wood

A warm welcome to new Gallery Members Judy Stein, Rev. Lincoln Paul, Geoff Mackintosh, Aaron Scythe, Jonny Keene, Sweaney Jacks, Junette Ward, Steve Duggan & Aydie Holland, Catherine Sleyer, Jacqui Virtue, Richard Norman, Russell Marshall, Beverley Lawrence, Beth Pratt, Helen Frances.

The Gallery is pleased to acknowledge the following as Corporate Members and Corporate Sponsors:
ASB Bank, Bryce Smith & Associates Ltd., Central City Pharmacy, ComputerCare NZ Ltd, Forbo Flooring Systems, Kensington Swan, Mars Pet Care, Meteor Design & Print and OPD, Richard Millward & Associates, Nicola Williams, Pamela M J Williams, pattillo Ltd., Te Reo Irirangi O Wanganui – AWA FM, NZME, Wanganui Chronicle, Whanganui UCOL – Creative Programmes.

We value the support of our Corporate Members and Sponsors and encourage you to utilise their services whenever possible.

Greetings to all our members
A well-attended function for the Gallery's wonderful band of volunteers took place early in December. This group has made an especially valuable contribution throughout 2014.

At the same time we have continued fundraising in support of our Redevelopment Programme and welcomed Nicola Williams aboard the Sarjeant Gallery Trust to help drive that effort. Between us Nicola and I have visited and spoken to something like a thousand or more people around the city at service groups and public gatherings, in order to gain support for our Project and simply to convey the plain facts about what we intend to do, how and why, to correct many years of misunderstanding and misinformation which has surrounded our endeavour. Such efforts have borne fruit in the form of increased membership to our 1000 Stars fundraising initiative; and also in terms of large bequests from Trusts and individuals. Fundraising for what we're trying to achieve in our Redevelopment is not a quick process, but friends and supporters of the Gallery can be assured that we are making steady progress.

As 2014 draws to a close I would like to thank all of the Gallery's volunteers for giving up their time on our behalf (we couldn't function so successfully without you); to the artists whose work has graced our walls and made Whanganui a little more beautiful and special over the last seven months; and finally a very big thank you to the Sarjeant staff who have worked at a sustained and superhuman pace throughout. 2015 is now just around the corner so on behalf of all at the Sarjeant Gallery Te Whare o Rehua and the Sarjeant Gallery Trust, I wish you a very happy and safe holiday season, and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year!

Cover: Detail of Peter Madden, *Empire of Rest*, 2010, found images and mixed media on glass, The University of Auckland Art Collection.
Photograph by Richard Wotton

Apart from assistance with the hosting of exhibition openings, mail outs & flyer drops our helpers were with us on our closing day at Queen's Park and right by our side here at Taupo Quay for all our opening functions. To assist with the move of artworks into our interim location volunteers varnished numerous travel frames and participated in sewing bees to produce copious numbers of pillows for packing 3D artworks. Staff greatly appreciate this valuable and generous input.

A new initiative by the Members Executive has been Art Fix. This is an informal gathering to discuss art followed by a coffee, held on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 2pm at our Gallery above the I-Site. Led by Tom Turner this is a great way to add to your understanding of art. Art Fix will be back in March 2015 after a summer break.

Your Members Executive for 2014/2015 is

President	Libby Wood
Vice President	Ian Glenny
Secretary	Ian McGowan (Immediate Past President)
Committee	Andres Salinas Sonny Barlow Tom Turner Anne Webber

Warm greetings for a happy festive season. We look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

*Member's Executive
President Libby
Wood and Sarjeant
Gallery Collections
Manager Jennifer
Taylor Moore*



Thousand Stars News

by Vivien Lindsay

THANK OUR LOVELY STARS!

What an incredible year it has been! It is difficult to imagine there is a soul left in Whanganui who hasn't heard about the Sarjeant Gallery Redevelopment Project. We held public meetings, attended numerous Service and Community group gatherings, maintained a fortnightly presence at the River Traders market, published a weekly newspaper column and jumped at every available opportunity to fly the Sarjeant flag at local events in order to tell the people of Whanganui and surrounds what the redevelopment entails, why it is so necessary - and how we are making it happen.

The good news is that the project is on track - the developed design is completed and the resource consent was granted in August.

Significant funds remain to be raised, even with Government and philanthropic support, and this is where YOU come in! As one of our 1000 STARS your weekly donation will be part of a major collective contribution to our national heritage and your support and commitment will be publicly acknowledged. Give at least \$5 a week - the cost of a cup of coffee - for four years to the project. This amounts to a little over \$1,000 and you can claim a tax rebate of \$343 on your donation. Have a thousand people to do the same, and there you have it: one million dollars in the kitty!

Be a STAR & support our Sarjeant

Simply sign up online at www.sarjeant.org.nz/1000stars or contact Redevelopment Project Administrator Vivien Lindsay on (06) 349 3138, or at vivien.lindsay@sarjeant.org.nz

Meet some of our STARS



Joe Salmon and Kay Benseman became STARS in November 2012 when the initiative was launched. "Regular visits to check out new exhibitions, great conversation with friends at openings and taking our visiting friends and whānau to the Sarjeant is an important part of our life here. We felt that the 1000 Stars project for the Sarjeant was our generation's opportunity to make a lasting contribution to Whanganui."



Well known locals and keen Sarjeant supporters **John and Sue Keating** appreciate old and beautiful things. Their Gonville business, City Furniture Exchange, founded in 1914, shares a history longer than that of the Sarjeant. John believes that the redevelopment project "will re-establish the Sarjeant as the pre-eminent Gallery in the Lower North Island and attract much needed visitors, tourists and artists to our district."



One of our favourite times of the month is when the **Turoa Nursery team** come into the gallery to hand over their STAR donation and check out what the gallery has on display. As regular visitors to the Gallery, they signed up as STARS in February 2013 - raising funds for their monthly donation from the sale of their home-grown vegetables.



Professor Effie Tsakalidou is one of our international STARS. During sabbatical leave in NZ from her post at the Agricultural University of Athens, the Sarjeant became one of her favourite places to visit. Reading about the 1000 Stars initiative on Facebook in 2013, Effie signed up online, eager to support the restoration of a place that held fond memories of her time in New Zealand.



NZ OPERA COSTUMES

From 5 to 19 January 2015, Sarjeant on the Quay will be displaying a small group of costumes from the New Zealand Opera collection. The New Zealand Opera School is taking place in Wanganui during this period.

Handel opera **Xerxes** (1738) NZ Opera's 2011 production.



ANZAC

PHOTOGRAPHS BY LAURENCE ABERHART

13.12.14 – 08.03.15

For more than three decades, Laurence Aberhart has been photographing World War One memorials that include a single figure in New Zealand and Australia. Like all of his work, these photographs have been shot with an old-fashioned view camera using long exposures and available light.

ANZAC - a major exhibition of more than sixty prints - is the stunning result of this work and we are delighted to have it here in Whanganui, where Aberhart was the inaugural Tylee Cottage artist-in-residence in 1986.

This exhibition provides a unique insight into the memorialisation of war, which resonates for audiences both in this country and elsewhere. The ANZAC relationship is a significant story in the development of closer emotional, political and cultural ties between our two commonwealth countries. It also particularly marks the bonds that were formed in the WWI battles, a significant turning point in these nations' histories as they became increasingly aware of their differences from their 'homeland' (Great Britain) compatriots.

Laurence Aberhart is regarded as one of New Zealand's most important photographers. His work has been exhibited widely in solo exhibitions throughout New Zealand and internationally and is found in all major New Zealand public collections, including the Sarjeant Gallery. For close to forty years, he has produced a body of work unrivalled in its intensity, richness and layers of cultural and photographic history.

ANZAC is a Dunedin Public Art Gallery touring exhibition curated by Aaron Kreisler in close liaison with the artist. It has received significant support from the WW100 Centenary fund, Creative New Zealand and the Dunedin City Council.



Top left:
Ongaonga, Hawke's Bay, 16 December 2010. [silver gelatin, gold & selenium toned]

Top right:
Maori war memorial, Moutoa Gardens, Whanganui, 3 November 2011. [silver gelatin, gold & selenium toned]

Above:
Auroa, Taranaki, 27 September 2009. [silver gelatin, selenium toned]
All images courtesy the artist.



The Archivists is an exhibition that spans the Sarjeant Gallery's current exhibition spaces at 31 and 38 Taupo Quay and brings together a group of fourteen artists for whom drawing on archival material is an integral part of their practice.

The word *archive* carries with it a certain amount of weight, it implies importance and history but archives are not confined to the territories of the past as they are ongoing, constant, viral, epic and everyday. They can be of national significance, personal significance or no significance at all. Think about all the archives of information that are deleted from existence everyday, the contents of a house, a mind or a family.



Artists:

Mark Braunias
Bekah Carran
Janet Green
Sarah Hillary
Richard Killeen
Jill Kennedy
Andrew McLeod
Peter Madden
Marian Maguire
David Murray
Anne Noble
Brendan O'Brien
Richard Stratton
Erica van Zon



Far top:

Still from Jill Kennedy's *Eyes on the Moon*, 2012, digital animation. Courtesy of the artist.

Top:

Richard Killeen, *Category Horse*, 2013, digital images printed on vinyl. Courtesy of the artist and Peter McLeavey Gallery.



Detail of Mark Braunias' *My name was Brad Devo-Looper*, 2014, commissioned wall work

Each of the artists featured in the exhibition draws inspiration for their own practice from many rich and varied sources: the history of ceramics; the fictional world of literature; imagery from classical mythology; the history of painting and design; and the imagined world of a fictional archive.

A number of them are salvaging 'found' imagery from printed sources and using these images directly to create collaged works. In some cases they are pushing them into a whole new arena of animation and site specific painterly chaos in the form of a newly commissioned wall work for the exhibition.

In contrast to the endless imagery that can be sourced from discarded printed matter the exhibition also includes work that explores the idea of creating images that document and chart the history and change in a family. In doing so these artists have created unique archives that document their family histories at a particular moment in time.

Now more than ever, we are bombarded on a daily basis with an overload of visual imagery. This exhibition brings together a diverse collection of works from a group of artists who sieve through elements of that onslaught. They make us ponder the archive, stop and think, look for the clues, the logic and the magic of their chosen media.

Greg Donson

Curator and Public Programmes Manager

UPDATE ON THE COLLECTION MC

Jennifer Taylor Moore, Curator of Collections

We have made considerable progress with moving the Collection. The team has inventoried and packed nearly 6,700 works and moved just over 4,500 artworks to Taupo Quay. We have moved the entire collection of framed glazed works on paper, all of the solander boxes containing unframed works on paper, and the majority of ceramics.

We are now moving the paintings in re-usable supportive timber travel frames. The art work is hung in this frame using brackets attached to the back of the work. This prevents packing materials from coming into contact with the exposed surface of the paint and prevents handling of the fragile ornate frames when we lift and carry the works. Once it is packed the travel frame is

wrapped in cling film to create a micro climate around the painting. This ensures that when the painting arrives into the climate controlled store at Sarjeant on the Quay it adjusts to the new conditions gradually, lessening the potential for damage that can be caused by sudden climatic changes. We then wait 24-48 hours to allow acclimatisation before unpacking the works and rehousing them into the new store. Once empty the travel frame is re-used for the next truck load.

Staff are enjoying discovering works they have never seen before, which were previously inaccessible due to cramped storage, and finding it satisfying to see the newly installed HydeStor racks and shelves filling up.



Paintings rehoused on the mobile mesh racks at Sarjeant on the Quay.



Before: In April 2014 the access ways in the West Wing Basement were blocked and many works were leaning against pillars and racks.



After: In December 2014 the access ways in the West Wing Basement are clear and the racks empty.



Collection Transition Assistants Ben Davis and Te Maari Barham packing *Mass* by Julian Hooper, an oil on canvas dated 1995, into a travel frame for transport.



Collection Transition Assistant Te Maari Barham packing a framed glazed photograph, with protection tape across the glass, into a large collapsible crate for transport.



Collection Transition Assistant Ben Davis rehousing works on paper into the new mobile racks at Sarjeant on the Quay. Each work is interleaved with fresh cardboard to prevent scratching the frame when removing works from the shelf.



The travel frames installed into the new climate controlled collection store. They will rest here for 24-48 hours to acclimatise gradually before being unpacked and rehoused onto the racks.

OVE

Tylee News

by Sarah McClintock

Wellington based artist Cat Auburn officially began her time as the Tylee Cottage artist-in-residence in late November, but her residency project began in earnest well before.

For the past two months Auburn has been traveling the region, and the country, visiting A&P shows and collecting horsetail hair. Her project focuses on memory and mortality, reflecting on the thousands of horses who left New Zealand for service in World War One and never returned. Grief and the ways in which it affects an individual, a community, a nation – immediately and over the course of generations – is central to this project, as Auburn seeks to create a collaborative memorial to war, community and animals. She is asking horse riders from all over the country to donate a small clipping of full-length horsetail which she will then weave into flowers, in the style of a Victorian Hair Wreath, and create a large memorial tapestry with the many donations.

Cat Auburn is no stranger to residency programmes, having completed the Olivia Spencer Bower residency in Christchurch in 2010. Her work has been shown at Christchurch Art Gallery, The Dowse Art Museum and in the exhibition *After You* at the Sarjeant Gallery.

Cat Auburn, Sample of horse hair rosettes, 2014.



COMING UP AT SARJEANT ON THE QUAY, 31 & 38 TAUPO QUAY

Garden Cities of Tomorrow

28 February to 24 May, 2015

A post Tylee Cottage body of mixed media work made by Richard Orjis.

Peter Peryer: A Careful Eye

14 March to 14 June, 2015

An exhibition exploring the reoccurring visual themes in the work of photographer Peter Peryer. Peter Peryer: A Careful Eye is a touring exhibition from The Dowse Art Museum.

Rick Rudd

28 February to 21 June 2015

31 Taupo Quay

Picking up from Rick Rudd's 1997 exhibition *True To Form* at the Sarjeant Gallery, this show canvases the last seventeen years of work by the Whanganui potter.

Tattletale Saints / NZ Summer Tour 2015

Thursday 29 January, 8pm at Sarjeant on the Quay

Gallery Members \$18, non-members \$20.

Tickets from Sarjeant on the Quay or by phone from 06 349 0506.



Richard Orjis

Garden Cities of Tomorrow

28 February — 24 May, 2015

Sarjeant
On the Quay


Sarjeant Gallery
Te Whare o Rehua
Whanganui

38 Taupō Quay
Whanganui 4500
New Zealand

Phone 06 349 0506
www.sarjeant.org.nz

Sarjeant Gallery is a cultural facility of the Wanganui District Council