

Sarjeant Quarterly 67

Autumn 2018



WHANGANUI
ARTS REVIEW

30



Newsletter of the Sarjeant Gallery
Te Whare o Rehua Whanganui
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FRONT COVER: Whanganui Arts Review Open Award Winners, clockwise from top left: **Penni Wyse** *Harry Fat* 2014, automotive wire; **Katherine Claypole** *The Thief* 2011, graphite on paper; **Mark Rayner** *Self Portrait* 2016, latch hook wool on rug canvas; **Andrea Du Chatenier** *Yellow Melt* 2017, porcelain.



From the Director

2018 begins with gusto as we prepare for this year's 30th annual Arts Review and dive into a reinvigorated fundraising drive for the Sarjeant Gallery Redevelopment.

Director of the Tauranga Art Gallery Karl Chitham will be the judge of this year's Review and, owing to the popularity of opening night, we will be holding the opening this year at the Pioneer Room at the Whanganui War Memorial Centre. This fantastic venue and location can cater for the high attendance numbers we expect, while our temporary Gallery at 38 Taupō Quay can now only legally accommodate up to 170 people.

The Review is a prominent feature in the Gallery's annual programming calendar and is one of the hallmark events in our exhibiting year. It is impossible to predict the nature of each year's content but the one constant, noted by judges on each occasion, is the consistently high quality of the works on display. It is unique too, in that this is the only occasion where members of the public can purchase a Review artwork at the Sarjeant, knowing that they will be supporting local artists.

2018 sees both Nicola Williams (Sarjeant Gallery Trust Chairman) and I returning fresh to the capital raising effort. This year represents a change in gear as the pre-construction process gets under way with the Redevelopment and potential donors, corporate or individual, can see that we have moved from the planning portion of the project to the "doing" stage. The clearest indication of that will be the archaeological dig, scheduled to be the first work occurring on the Pukenuamu Queens Park site. Meanwhile the detailed design process gets under way, all the while Nicola and I continue to seek funds through until the building work is complete.

2018 will prove to be another watershed year for Sarjeant Gallery Te Whare o Rehua Whanganui and we look forward to seeing you at the Arts Review opening on 9 March.—**GREG ANDERSON**



Sarjeant News

We are thrilled to announce our Registrar Te Maari Barham had a beautiful baby girl very early in 2018. While she is on maternity leave we have been joined by Ben Davis who will fill the Registrar role until late 2018. Ben will be familiar to many as one of our stellar team of four Collection Transition Assistants who relocated the entire Sarjeant Gallery collection in 2014-2015. Until moving to Whanganui he was working at the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery & Len Lye Centre in New Plymouth as a Contract Preparator and

also at the Western Institute of Technology as the Art & Design Technician.

Ben says "I've always been interested in photography. The Sarjeant has a great collection of New Zealand photography, which keeps growing, especially with some of the photographers they have had at the Tylee Cottage residency. I see that as a strength of the collection, as well as its size and diversity. It's great to be back with the people I worked with before and to take on a different role."

Gallery Friends

A warm welcome to new Patron Member Richard Norman and Gallery Members Rik Howes, Richard Reid, Hester den Ouden, Andy & Beth Savage, Sue Timpany.

The Gallery is pleased to acknowledge the following as Corporate Members and Corporate Sponsors: ASB Bank, Central City Pharmacy, ComputerCare NZ Ltd, Forbo Flooring Systems, Kensington Swan, Mars Pet Care, Meteor Office Products Depot, NZME, Moore Stephens Markhams Wanganui, Nicola Williams, Pamela M J Williams, pattillo Ltd., PR & AB Warnock, Te Reo Irirangi O Whanganui – AWA FM, 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.

Tylee News

Photographer Conor Clarke has now completed her five month residency at Tylee Cottage and we're looking forward to seeing the results of her time in Whanganui in her post residency exhibition which is scheduled for next summer. We're sad to see Conor leave but delighted to welcome Kate Fitzharris, an Otago based artist working with ceramics. Her work often incorporates 'found' materials and in her own words she comments "My work is very much inspired by my environment, of my experiences of living in this diverse world, exploring people's relationships with other animals. My work stimulates feelings; of wilderness, nostalgia and domesticity. A sense of something almost articulated, nearly, and yet, not quite. I want my work to speak to the body of the person looking at or holding it, reminding them of the physicality of this world, to touch them." During her time in Whanganui Fitzharris would like to create a 'Library of Things' that will in part be made in response to objects that are offered to her by members of the community. This body of work will incorporate both the stories that are connected with objects and the new narratives that will be created by bringing them together. Kate is the first artist-in-residence to receive funding from Creative New Zealand's Toi Uru Kahikatea Arts Development Investment programme.



Artist Kate Fitzharris (left) and *Wearing it*, image: Justin Spiers

The Sarjeant Gallery Redevelopment Update

There have been many important and meaningful milestones in the 100 year life of the Sarjeant Gallery, but possibly none quite so crucial as the year of 2017. After a concerted six year fundraising campaign led by Sarjeant Director Greg Anderson and myself as Sarjeant Trust chairman the \$35 million redevelopment of the Gallery at Pukenua Queens Park is now officially underway!

As many of you know, on 20 December 2017 we were able to demonstrate to the Government that we had met their required conditions. On 22 December, I received a letter from the Prime Minister in her role as Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage notifying us that we had fulfilled our obligations and that the \$10 million in funding would be released, which in turn triggered the release of the \$6 million pledge from the NZ Lottery Grants Board Significant Projects Fund with other pledges converting thereafter.

We have now launched our final capital raising thrust which will continue throughout the construction phase. During the next four years we need to raise a further \$3.7 million for the Redevelopment. In addition we will also fundraise to establish a capital fund for the future acquisition of art works and to allow for restoration work and exhibition programming.

You will all be gratified to know after an extremely long wait we will finally see some activity happening on the hill this year. The contracting phase is now underway with a Design Manager just appointed from RCP in Wellington who will oversee the 'archaeological investigation dig' on site, the completion of the detailed design drawings by Warren and Mahoney, the preparation of tender documents and the resultant appointment of a construction partner to commence the works. The build will proceed on the basis of a guaranteed maximum price (GMP) contract with the construction partner, so that fact combined with the checks and balances at Council will ensure the cost will not exceed the budget.

The first sod will be turned when the archaeological dig commences. The site of the new wing at the rear of the gallery has been close to human activity and dwelling for hundreds of years and it is important that we discover and remove or protect any artefacts that may be buried beneath the surface. It is the hope that the archaeological dig progresses smoothly and certainly the discoveries (and there are sure to be some) will be dealt with respectfully. We look forward to sharing the findings with you.

Once the dig has finished, the strengthening, restoration and construction of the new wing will begin in early 2019. We anticipate that the build will take two years with the doors planned to open in November

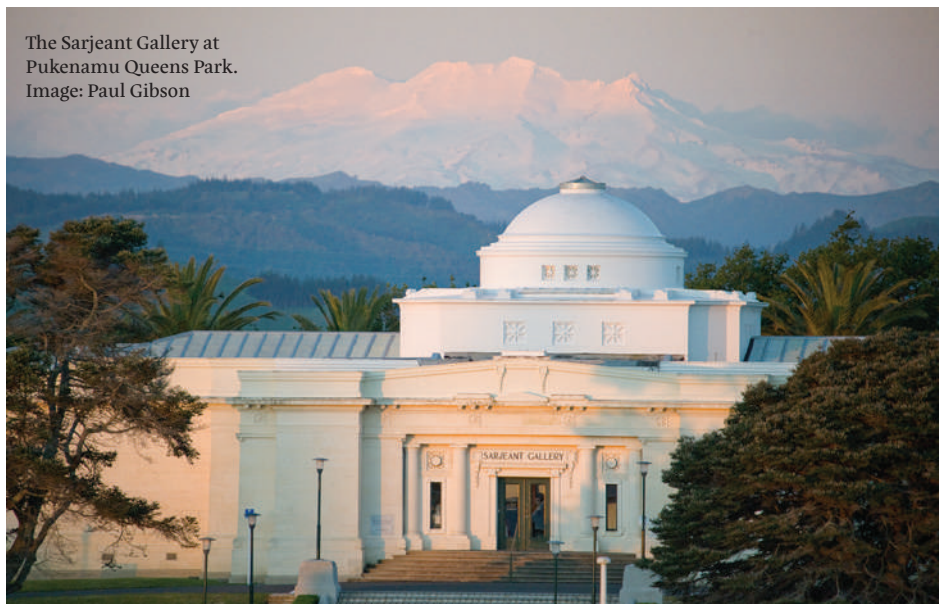
2021. It will indeed be a momentous occasion for Whanganui and one to look forward to. For the Whanganui business community, it will also provide some solid opportunity for national profile for those who wish to join our Sarjeant Business Partners programme.

Between now and then there is much to do – with the continuance of a very active exhibition programme, continued fundraising, and a range of events to be staged at Sarjeant on the Quay. We welcome your attendance and involvement in them all. Please keep sharing the exciting news with your friends and acquaintances you meet especially emphasising that now is the time to jump on board and to be part of the Sarjeant's history.

By the way, you may be interested to know that we have been told that the Sarjeant Gallery Redevelopment Project is the largest cultural project in Whanganui since the building of the original Sarjeant Gallery in Pukenuamu Queens Park 1917 – 1919, *and* it is the largest arts development in the lower North Island since Te Papa.

We are very fortunate to have such a beautiful and significant building and art collection in Whanganui. We are indeed thankful for the support of the Whanganui District Council, the Ministry for Culture and Heritage, Whanganui Iwi, as well as large and small donors and sponsors from the Whanganui region and throughout New Zealand. But most importantly we treasure all our friends, stars and supporters who are the core audiences of the Sarjeant. To provide inspiration, education and enjoyment to the many thousands of adult visitors and school groups to the Gallery each year is indeed the reason for our existence.—**NICOLA WILLIAMS**, *Chairman, Sarjeant Gallery Trust*

The Sarjeant Gallery at
Pukenuamu Queens Park.
Image: Paul Gibson



30 Years of the Whanganui Arts Review!

2018 is the thirtieth year of the Whanganui Arts Review. From small enthusiastic beginnings, a very important event in the Whanganui artistic calendar has grown and the opening night of the Arts Review is the Sarjeant's busiest night of the year. Did you know that the Whanganui Arts Review is the longest running public arts review in New Zealand?

This year at the 2018 Sarjeant Gallery Te Whare o Rehua Whanganui Arts Review the Sarjeant Gallery itself will present and sponsor the exhibition, opening and main award – which absolutely befits the thirty year anniversary and heralds the exciting position which the Sarjeant is in, having had such positive news around the redevelopment. The Arts Review will be as ever, a celebration of our fantastic community of artists and artistic endeavor, and also a celebration of the rosy future the Sarjeant has now been assured of.

We farewell and whole heartedly thank our longstanding principle sponsor Bryce Smith and his business associates who were the principle sponsor for thirteen years. We also acknowledge the many Merit Award sponsors, some of whom have supported us for over ten years. A big thank you goes to the Central City Pharmacy who have significantly increased their connection this year and are sponsoring our new Excellence Award.

Raewyne Johnson has been involved with the Arts Review every single year since the first show in 1988 when she was a ceramic exhibitor. She exhibited for several years and then twenty two years ago, took on the administration of the Arts Review. To many, Raewyne is the face of events at the Sarjeant and especially the Arts Review.

"It's a wonderful show to step into," she says. "The Review is a showcase of the strength and diversity of our creative community. For the artists it's a great opportunity to display in a prestigious gallery. We are looking forward to seeing work from both the many creative newcomers to Whanganui and the Arts Review stalwarts who contribute every year. We are also hoping that the WDC Youth Recognition Award attracts a good response from students."

The Review has changed over the years. It was initially a partnership between the Wanganui Arts Society and the Sarjeant Gallery then, a few years later the Arts Society went back to holding its own exhibition. By that time support for the Review had grown and increasing numbers of artists were entering. The catchment area also opened up to include Whanganui, Ruapehu and Rangitiki, which link to the Whanganui River.

This year the Arts Review coincides with the Artists Open Studios period which is such a fun time on the annual calendar. Many are out and about on

the hunt for what's new in art at his time and this is exactly what the Arts Review provides. Come and see!

Entries will be received at Sarjeant on the Quay, Tuesday 27 February between 10.30am and 4.30pm. Information and entry forms are at www.sarjeant.org.nz — **JAKI ARTHUR**, *Relationships Officer*

2018 Sarjeant Gallery Te Whare O Rehua Whanganui Arts Review Awards

The Sarjeant Gallery Te Whare o Rehua Whanganui Arts Review Open Award—\$2000

The Central City Pharmacy Excellence Award—\$1000

W.D.C Youth Committee Youth Recognition Award—\$200

Merit Awards (to the value of \$200, previously \$150)

Friends of the Sarjeant Gallery

Rivercity Picture Framers

Recaffeinate

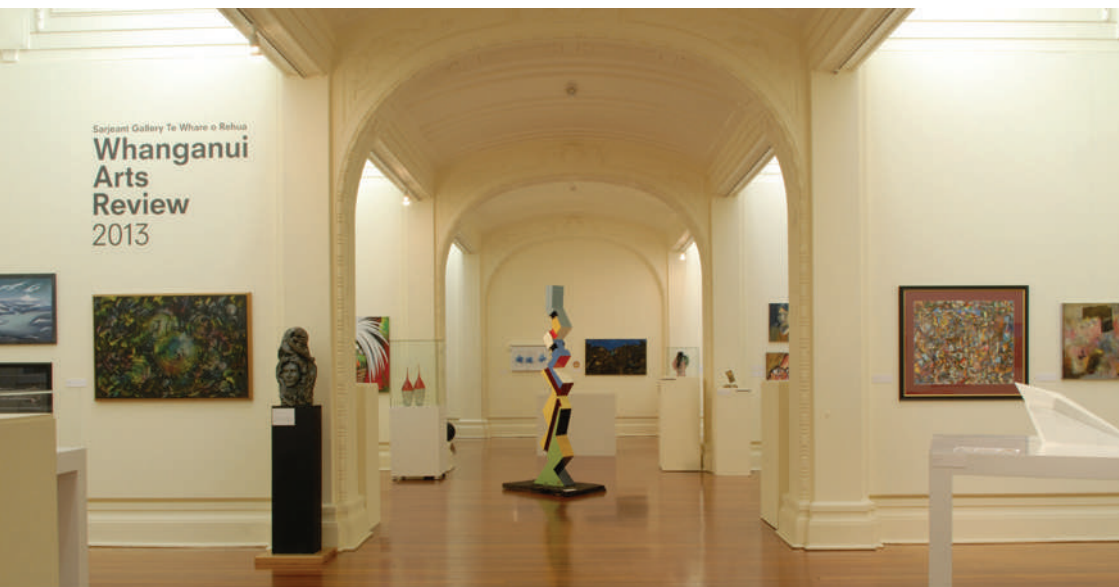
Renata's Art and Framing

Wanganui Garden Services Ltd

WHMilbank Gallery

The Whanganui River Traders

Ceramic Lounge



The Arts Review installed at the Sarjeant Gallery at Pukenui Queens Park in 2013

Creature

14 April–15 July 2018, at 31 Taupō Quay, above the i-SITE

Animals have served as inspiration for artists for as long as humans have been making imagery. This exhibition brings together works by a selection of object makers whose work incorporates animal imagery in some way, sometimes these animals are depicted in three dimensions such as Barry Brickell's wonderful Box-o-dogic and other times ceramics serve as a canvas on which to portray narrative scenes such as John Lawrence's works that are inspired by Aesop's Fables.

An invasion of delicate white moths inhabit one of the gallery's large display cases, made by well-known Wellington-based artist Elizabeth Thomson, the installation is a new iteration from her major site specific installation *An Invitation to Openness—Substantive and Transitive States*, that was originally shown at the Dowse Art Museum in 2014 and that subsequently toured nationally. Here in Whanganui the installation will be scaled down to fit the more intimate space of our object-based gallery. White on white, the installation features moths with their wings at various stages of opening and closing, with each cast in bronze and finished with a patina of white paint and flocking.

These delicate creatures are accompanied in the gallery by slightly more surreal companions, including cast glass gnomes by former Tylee Cottage artist-in-residence Gregor Kregar. Gnomes have a far more complex history that extends beyond being garden ornaments and featured in Disney cartoons. Originating from medieval Europe, gnomes were closely associated with the science of alchemy and were guardians of minerals and metals. Rather than the usual environment of the garden where we might expect to find a gnome, looking a bit lost and forlorn, Kregar's gnomes occupy the locked glass cabinets of the gallery, precious and illuminated.

Ceramicist John Roy, another former Tylee resident has often worked in series, his 2014 work *Dweller* is made up of fifty ceramic figures, faceless and foetal, each huddled into itself and en masse with their varied glazes and surface treatments the installation resembles a beautiful fungus or undersea coral. Although distinctly human in form the figures, perforated and scored, have an alien quality to them.

With the recognisable and unfamiliar in close proximity we're certain that this eclectic mix of works from a range of object-based practitioners will intrigue and delight. —**GREG DONSON**, *Curator & Public Programmes Manager*



Elizabeth Thomson *Moths* 2014–2017,
cast bronze, etch prime flashe acrylic,
aqueous adhesive, paper and nylon
flocked fibre, 40–190 mm. Image
courtesy of Two Rooms Gallery.

Collection Focus: *Clouds*

17 February–27 May, 2018

The Sarjeant Gallery's permanent collection includes artworks featuring diverse landscapes in a variety of media. While viewing images of these works in our database recently, it became clear that more than a few of the artist's featured in our collection found inspiration in the sky.

Clouds have fascinated artists around the world for centuries; their depiction evolving with the movements of art history. Pictured below are two works featured in our collection exhibition *Clouds*, a selection of works from the collection depicting the many moods of clouds as represented over several centuries of artmaking.



George Cole *Angry Clouds* circa 1853-1893, oil on canvas, 1915/3/1. Purchased 1915.

English landscape and animal painter George Cole (b.1810, d.1883) portrayed his ominous *Angry Clouds* dominating a scattering of lonely figures in an otherwise sparse landscape. This painting was recently made accessible in the Sarjeant's collection transition project, and we're delighted to be able to include it in this display.



Andrew Ross *View from a barn, near Turakina* 16/3/2009 2009, silver gelatin contact prints on gold toned printing out paper, 2010/5/4. Tylee Residency exchange, 2010.

Andrew Ross spent time during his Tylee Cottage residency in 2009 visiting and photographing notable Whanganui places. Here, the sky became his focus; glowing gold-toned clouds framed by the wooden walls of an old barn doorway.

A conversation with Elva Abbott

Curator of Collections Jennifer Taylor Moore was recently in conversation with local artist Elva Abbott. Her work is currently on display in Clouds.

How many years have you been painting? *I started painting when I was 42, my children were growing up and I wanted to do something for myself. I went along to night school with a friend, it all started as a bit of a joke.*

How many hours a week do you usually paint? *It varies, you have to be very selfish to paint and leave other things like housework. Some paintings take 3 days to complete while others take weeks.*

What inspires you to paint? *Mainly the Whanganui landscape, the Paraparas in winter with frost on the hills. I look at the forms of the land and often move elements around to suit the composition.*

How does painting make you feel? *When I paint I feel like I am on another planet with a total focus on it. Painting is very therapeutic. I play Mozart and Beethoven loud and feel like I am conducting an orchestra with my brush.*

How have others responded to your work? *I am surprised by the support I have received from others. Whenever I felt like giving up, positive comments kept me going.*

Tell us about the Clouds works you recently gifted to the collection? *I have always loved clouds, they are so interesting with different forms and energy.*



What would you say to others thinking of taking up painting? *I would tell them to have a go, it is an absorbing interest and wonderful therapy. I just have to smell the turps and I get the itch to paint.*

Elva Abbott *Clouds I* 2014, oil on canvas 2017/13/1. Collection of the Sarjeant Gallery Te Whare o Rehua Whanganui. Gift of the artist, 2017.

EXHIBITIONS

Autumn season

AT 38 TAUPŌ QUAY

2018 Sarjeant Gallery Te Whare o Rehua Whanganui Arts Review

10 MARCH–13 MAY, 2018

The annual Whanganui Arts Review is the longest running event of its type in the country and is a valued component of the Sarjeant's programme. The selected exhibition is open to all artists working in any media in the Whanganui region, including all areas that link to the Whanganui River, and is a true reflection of this area's creative energy.

Clouds

17 FEBRUARY–27 MAY, 2018

A selection of works from the Gallery's permanent collection depicting the many moods of clouds as represented over several centuries of artmaking.



Kenneth MacQueen *McCauley's Farm* 1935, watercolour, 1937/2/2. Collection of the Sarjeant Gallery Te Whare o Rehua Whanganui.

www.facebook.com/SarjeantGallery

[sarjeantgallery](https://twitter.com/sarjeantgallery)

[@sarjeantgallery](https://www.instagram.com/sarjeantgallery)

For more information & to keep up to date with news & events visit:
sarjeant.org.nz

UPSTAIRS AT THE i-SITE, 31 TAUPŌ QUAY

Creature

14 APRIL–15 JULY, 2018

Animals have served as inspiration for artists for as long as we have been making imagery. This exhibition brings together works by a selection of object makers whose work incorporates animal imagery in some way and some whose works morph animal and human elements together.

TALKS & EVENTS

All events are free and are at 38 Taupō Quay unless otherwise stated.

10 String Symphony

SUNDAY 4 MARCH AT 4.30PM

Touring NZ & Australia from Nashville Tennessee, Rachel Baiman and Christian Sedelmyer of 10 String Symphony present mesmerizing acoustic innovation with their 5 string fiddles and vivacious musical voices. "Old-time, folk and bluegrass, all delivered with a dash of rock and roll spunk."—*American Songwriter Magazine*

Tickets \$20, Gallery Friends & Stars \$18; purchase from Sarjeant on the Quay or by phoning 349 0506

2018 Sarjeant Gallery Te Whare o Rehua Whanganui Arts Review

Exhibition Opening and Awards Ceremony—*Please note: two venues will be in use*

FRIDAY 9 MARCH

5–8pm at Sarjeant on the Quay, the Gallery will be open to the public for viewing artworks included in our 2018 Arts Review exhibition.

6–8pm at the War Memorial Centre Pioneer Room, please join us from 6pm for the awards ceremony for this year's Arts Review, light refreshments provided.

Art Fix with Tom Turner

THURSDAY 15 MARCH AT 2PM

Join Tom Turner for a friendly chat about the *2018 Sarjeant Gallery Te Whare o Rehua Whanganui Arts Review*. You are encouraged to bring a pen and pad. This will be followed by a cup of tea at Mud Ducks.

Arts Review Winners Talk

TUESDAY 27 MARCH AT 7.30PM

An opportunity to hear local artists talk about their award winning arts review entries. Each of the artists will present a selection of images that illustrate how their winning work reflects their recent practice.

Conservators Talk: The Flight into Egypt

TUESDAY 10 APRIL AT 7.30PM

Auckland Art Gallery conservator Ingrid Ford will give an illustrated talk about the 2017 conservation treatment of Frederick Goodall's *The Flight into Egypt*, the largest painting in the Sarjeant Gallery collection.

Floor Talk: Creature

SATURDAY 14 APRIL, 11AM AT 31 TAUPŌ QUAY ABOVE THE i-SITE

Curator & Public Programmes Manager Greg Donson will discuss this new group exhibition at our object-based gallery above the i-SITE.

Art Fix with Jessica Kidd

THURSDAY 19 APRIL AT 2PM

Join Assistant Curator Jessica Kidd for a discussion of the exhibition

Clouds featuring works from Gallery's permanent collection depicting the many moods of clouds.

Artist Talk: Kate Fitzharris

TUESDAY 1 MAY AT 7.30PM

Ceramic artist Kate Fitzharris will be the artist-in-residence at Tylee Cottage for the next five months. She will give an illustrated talk about her practice.

Musicians for the Sarjeant: Rivercity Big Band

SUNDAY 13 MAY AT 4.30PM

This 19 piece 'Big Band' with full sections of Trumpet, Trombone, Saxophone and Rhythm includes three vocalists, and will present a varied programme of music from the 60s and onwards.

Tickets \$12.00, Gallery Friends & Stars \$10; purchase from Sarjeant on the Quay or by phoning 06 349 0506.

This is part of a series of performances under the banner of Musicians for the Sarjeant, a fundraising group for the Gallery's redevelopment programme

Art Fix with Greg Donson

THURSDAY 24 MAY AT 2PM

Join Curator & Public Programmes Manager Greg Donson for a walk through and discussion of the exhibition *Creature* based at our object-based gallery above the i-SITE.

PicChat 19/19 Episode 5

FRIDAY 25 MAY, DOORS OPEN 7PM,

EVENTS STARTS AT 7.30PM AT THE WHANGANUI MUSICIANS CLUB

A range of people from all walks of life give quick-fire illustrated talks on topics they are passionate about. Nibbles provided, cash bar available.

Tickets \$12.00, Gallery Friends & Stars \$10; purchase from Sarjeant on the Quay or by phoning 06 349 0506.



CREATURE

14 APRIL–15 JULY
2018

At 31 Taupō Quay,
above the i-SITE

IMAGE: **Jane Dodd** *Bat* 2017,
ebony, sterling silver and
marcasite. Image courtesy of
the artist.



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 Whanganui District Council