

# Sarjeant Quarterly 86

Summer 2022–2023

Newsletter of the  
Sarjeant Gallery  
Te Whare o Rehua  
Whanganui  
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FRONT COVER: **Chris Connolly**, *PAST POSSESSIVE, FUTURE POSSESSIVE (i) (UMPIRE CHAIR IN SIX PARTS)*, mixed media, 2022. Winner of the 2022 Pattillo Whanganui Arts Review, courtesy of the artist.

## From the Curator and Public Programmes Manager

*Nothing is absolute. Everything changes, everything moves,  
everything revolves, everything flies and goes away.*—Frida Kahlo

This quote is featured in the Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki's current exhibition *Frida Kahlo & Diego Rivera: Art & Life in Modern Mexico* which I was pleased to visit in November. It seems a fitting quote to open this Quarterly with since Auckland Art Gallery is where Greg Anderson, who after fifteen years as Director of the Sarjeant Gallery, has taken up the position of Deputy Director Operations. During Greg's time in Whanganui he has been largely responsible for turning the fortunes of the Gallery's Redevelopment Project around, alongside Nicola Williams, the chair of the Sarjeant Gallery Trust. Together they have steered the ship around, and the waters have not always been calm, but as Kahlo said, "everything changes, everything moves,

everything revolves." As a team, we'd like to thank Greg for his tenacity and perseverance with the project, we wish him all the best in his new role and look forward to seeing him back in Whanganui for our reopening in 2024.

The redevelopment project is moving ahead at pace and if you visit the site now, you'll see the steel framework for the first floor of the new wing Te Pātaka o Sir Te Atawhai Archie Taiaroa, it's heartening for us to see and we're now turning our attention to planning our return in detail. The last couple of months have been extremely busy and compared to the same time last year, the pace of our events schedule couldn't be more of a contrast. Heritage Month in October saw the Gallery host 11 events, these were all extremely well attended and were followed by the opening of an exhibition by members of the New Zealand Society of Artists in Glass (NZSAG). This is on view at the Gallery's object gallery upstairs in the iSite and was co-ordinated and installed by the talented team at New Zealand Glassworks and Members of the NZSAG committee. Glass is always popular and we're sure this exhibition will be popular for visitors to the Gallery over the summer season.

The 2022 *Pattillo Whanganui Arts Review* returned to our programme in a slightly later slot than normal due to necessary rescheduling. We had a record 212 entries this year with over 130 artists selected for the exhibition. A true testament to the wonderful creative energy in the region. This year's judge was Dr Chelsea Nichols—Senior Curator at the Dowse Art Museum. Dr Nichols made a wonderful selection of winners that you can learn more about in this Quarterly, including the Open Award Winner Chris Connolly with his elegant and superbly crafted wooden sculpture that features on the cover. We're looking forward to working with Chris on his solo exhibition as the recipient of the Pattillo Project, this will take place in the redeveloped gallery at Pukenui Queen's Park.

There have been many other events that have taken place at the Gallery over the last few weeks and we're pleased that in light of the difficulties of the last couple of years, we seem to be returning to a new kind of normal. Paul Diamond launched his book *Downfall: The Destruction of Charles Mackay* about Whanganui's former Mayor, Charles Mackay; and Martin Edmond has been here researching the history of the Gallery, for his book due to be published when the Gallery reopens.

Be sure to visit the Gallery over the summer, there's plenty to see—including a new collection show of works by Peter Peryer (1941–2018), one of New Zealand's finest photographers and long time friend of the Sarjeant. On behalf of all the team at the Gallery, we wish you a happy and restful summer break. —**GREG DONSON**, *Curator & Public Programmes Manager*

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the Sarjeant Gallery Incorporated was held on 28 September. After six years as President of the Friends Ian Glenney was not eligible for re-election in line with the Friend's constitution, and Andrés Salinas was elected President. Ian explained that the role of Vice-President will be filled from the executive committee. Marion Gibbard and Kate Smith continue in their roles of secretary and treasurer respectively.

Commenting on his time leading the Friends of the Sarjeant Gallery, Ian said: "In my six years as chair of the Friends I met some amazing people who I worked with to achieve some great goals. We worked as a team in a very friendly and constructive manner. It was exciting to be chair of the Friends with the redevelopment of the Sarjeant Gallery and also to be involved with the Friends Chandelier project which was designed and made by the Crystal Chain Gang and commissioned to mark the centenary of the Sarjeant in 2019. The chandelier will take pride of place in the new building and will represent all past and present Friends. I am thrilled to see the new structure for the executive committee is now in place and I personally look forward to my new role on the committee as being more involved with the youth portfolio, our future."

In October Greg Anderson announced that he had accepted the role as Deputy Director Operations at Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki. He expressed his thanks to the Friends and volunteers, and acknowledged their dependability commenting that the executive committee have always been a stalwart sounding board.

Throughout spring, the Friends have continued to support Gallery events and launches including the hugely successful *Crime After Crime* author event and the prestigious 2022 *Pattillo Whanganui Arts Review* and awards.

Since the last Sarjeant Quarterly was published we have welcomed 42 new Friends, many of whom are new to Whanganui. A great many of these people signed up at the Gallery on the 2022 *Pattillo Whanganui Arts Review* submissions day, so many artists are included in the following list. Welcome! Sharon Casserley, Darren Groube, Stacey Howes, Gillian Fitcher, Nicki Crowley, Rebecca Wood, Liane Smithies, Lysha Brennan, Fran Anderton, Scott Anthony De Lautour, Sarah Barron, Hain Dickie, Cejevah Mae Tumaia Hurinui, Merrilyn George, Fleur Wickes, Victoria Campbell, Sian Raffety, Delia Jarratt, Karen Taylor, Patrick McKenna, Abby Stewart, Rani Ella Stigsottir, Polly Cleverley, Trish Flutey, Rosalind Fitz Patrick, Debbie Anne Lucas, Brigham Anderson, Vicky Huang, Bridget Tyson, Nolan Clark, Fliss Newton, Bowan Boswell, Sally Jane Smith, Chris Connolly, Erica Adams, Elena Enoka, Collette Goldsbury, Margot Bennetts, Rick Baum, Robyn Davison and William Baillie.

The Sarjeant Gallery welcomes Two Monkeys Design Studio as our newest Corporate Sponsor. Two Monkeys are web designers and mobile developers based in Whanganui and have been working with the Sarjeant over the last two years on the upkeep and enhancement of the Sarjeant website and also have designed built and are hosting the *Pattillo Arts Review* online hub and gallery which has been hugely popular. Jaki Arthur says: "Working with Iain Whittaker of Two Monkeys has been smooth and easy and we are very grateful for their support, vision and expertise."

**twomonkeys**  
design studio

### From the Sarjeant Gallery Trust

I wish to pay tribute to the huge contribution Greg Anderson has made not only to the Sarjeant Gallery but to the Whanganui region during his 15-year tenure as Gallery Director.

Without Greg's efforts and perseverance and that of his ever loyal and competent staff I think it is true to say that there would be no Sarjeant Gallery today. He endured every single barrier put before him that would have caused a lesser man to drop the baton. Thank goodness he had the fortitude to see the Redevelopment Project through to where it is today.

It has been a pleasure working with Greg over the past 8 years. We developed and evolved a formula for capital raising with great success and achieved what many said we couldn't. We thank and acknowledge all those who have helped us on this journey.

I am thrilled for Greg to have earned the well-deserved position as Deputy Director Operations at Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki. However, I must confess to having shed a few tears at his pōwhiri for the commencement of his new role. We wish him well and look forward to continuing and building on the strong relationship we have established with the Auckland Art Gallery.

Meanwhile we are currently in the process of appointing a new Gallery Director who can build on Greg's legacy and effectively lead the Gallery as we work towards the reopening and beyond.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I thank you all for your continued support and we wish our Sarjeant community a very Happy Christmas and New Year. —**NICOLA WILLIAMS, Sarjeant Gallery Trust Board Chair**



# Redevelopment Update



It is exciting to have some new project achievements to report.

The main structural steel beams have been fully installed for the uppermost level of the tower block for the extension wing, Te Pātaka o Sir Te Atawhai Archie John Taiaroa. This is a major milestone for the project and with these beams in place the steel framing clearly shows the outline of the new wing.

Welding of steel beams and minor steel works will continue as the stair and lift shaft assemblies are installed and the carpenters are in full swing installing timber framing for the roof and walls. Standing inside the space, you get a real sense of the immense size and scale of the building.

The next step is to complete the green roof of the basement archive which will eventually be covered by grass and a tiled patio space. The basement is where the Sarjeant Gallery's extensive permanent collection will be housed.

The seismic strengthening of the basement foundations and walls of the original 103-year-old heritage building is now complete and the new suspended concrete floor has been installed throughout. Just the section of basement where the old stairwell is located in the north is still being worked on inside the building. The original timber floorboards will be reinstated once the historic wall surfaces have finished being restored and painted, nearer to the end of the building programme.

On the roof of the building, a steel ring beam is being progressively installed around the central dome and structural framing for the refurbished skylights is now in place in the west wing which has allowed us to remove areas of temporary propping inside the Gallery, which has been required to support the roof during heavy construction works. With these interior areas now clear, the centralised air conditioning and services installation can commence in the basement. The temperature and humidity control system will be connected to the new wing via an underground service tunnel that runs beneath the link building connecting the two wings together. There will also be ducting and services installed on the roof of both buildings to ensure strict environmental conditions are achieved and maintained to best practice standards.—**GAYE BATTY**, *Project Director, Sarjeant Gallery Redevelopment*



TOP: A view from inside the new wing, Te Pātaka o Sir Te Atawhai Archie John Taiaroa.

BOTTOM: A view of the new wing, showing the main structure formation for the tower block and the construction of the green roof above the basement archive.



# 2022 Pattillo Whanganui Arts Review

12 NOVEMBER–26 FEBRUARY, 2023

The Sarjeant Gallery was delighted to open the 34th iteration of this much-loved open call exhibition with our sponsor and partner *Pattillo*. Supported by a strong group of Whanganui businesses, this year's Review represents not only a wide array of awards but also a wonderful prize for the winner of the Open Award. In addition to a generous cash prize, Pattillo have also sponsored the *Pattillo Project*—where the winner of the Open Award will receive a solo exhibition at the Sarjeant Gallery with mentoring from the Gallery's curatorial team.

The judge this year was Dr. Chelsea Nichols, Senior Curator at the Dowse Art Museum. On arrival, Dr. Nichols said she was “struck by the astonishing breadth of creativity and inspiring artistic talent on display. It was so exciting to see in one place this snapshot of all the creative riches that seems to just ooze out of this region.”

On judging the 2022 Whanganui Arts Review Dr. Nichols said, “I tried to come into this process with as open a mind as possible but deep down what I really hoped to find was an artist whose work I wasn't familiar with at all, and something that totally surprised delighted and baffled me in equal measure and Chris Connolly's work truly delivered on that.”

The Sarjeant Gallery's Curator and Public Programmes Manager, Greg Donson says: “The Arts Review is always a highlight of the Gallery's exhibition programme and this year we had an incredible 212 entries. Of those, over 130 works are included in the exhibition. There's a lot to see and the standard of entries was very high. It takes great courage to enter a show like this so we'd like to thank all the artists for entering this year.”



## PATTILLO OPEN AWARD WINNER:

**Chris Connolly**, *PAST POSSESSIVE, FUTURE POSSESSIVE (I)*  
(UMPIRE CHAIR IN SIX PARTS)

## ARTICLE AND MONEY POPPINS

### EXCELLENCE AWARD:

**Tia Ranginui**, *Murimuri Aroha*

## DALGLEISH ARCHITECTS

### EXCELLENCE AWARD:

**Isabella Loudon**, *Barbed*

## THE WHANGANUI RIVER

### MARKETS MERIT AWARD:

**Lesa Hepburn**, *Whā tuatinitini—  
one leaf, many strands.*

## RENATA'S ART &

### FRAMING MERIT AWARD:

**Debbie Hahn**, *Below the Surface*

## THE BARNICOAT & CO

### MERIT AWARD:

**Sarah Bradfield**, *Forfeit*

## EDITH COLLIER TRUST

### MERIT AWARD:

**Jillian Karl**, *Walking to the awa DNA  
Files*

## RECAFFEINATE MERIT AWARD:

**Julie Anne Coffey**, *Lost For Words*

## RIVER CITY PICTURE

### FRAMERS MERIT AWARD:

**Lynn Hurst**, *Gambling Paradise IV*

## FRIENDS OF THE SARJEANT

### GALLERY MERIT AWARD:

**Ellen Jackson**, *Matrescence*

## WHANGANUI GARDEN

### SERVICES MERIT AWARD:

**Brit Bunkley**, *The Moss Pig and  
the Palindrome*

## WHANGANUI YOUTH COUNCIL,

### YOUTH RECOGNITION AWARD:

**Shanai Atkinson**, *Metapsychosis*

ABOVE: Chris Connolly receiving the Pattillo Open Award with sponsor of the 2022 *Pattillo Whanganui Arts Review*, Anne Pattillo.



# Peter Peryer: Holy Tomato

3 DECEMBER –  
12 FEBRUARY, 2023



A bright red tomato positioned carefully on a carved wooden foot – curious subject matter for a photograph and perhaps made even more enigmatic by its title *Holy Tomato*. The 2006 photograph was taken by Peter Peryer (b.1941, d.2018) and is just one of the 180 works that the Sarjeant Gallery has in its care. Like other significant New Zealand photographers such as Laurence Aberhart, Anne Noble and Wayne Barrar the Sarjeant's ongoing friendship with Peryer was initiated

and fostered by the Gallery's former Director – Bill Milbank.

This exhibition features works created between 2003 and 2018, which were acquired by the Gallery in 2021 with generous assistance from his estate. With the addition of these works the Sarjeant has one of the most comprehensive collections of Peryer's photographic practice in a public gallery.

Peryer came to photography at the age of 32, late in comparison with other photographers. His output was constant but not prolific. He would often return, or revisit, subjects as a way of processing and percolating over long periods of time.

Families of photographs were something that Peryer often discussed in his practice and this exhibition is testament to that – the images nod and stretch toward each other. Although there are no portraits in the exhibition, his considered eye manages to give each of his images a distinctive personality.

In a 1995 catalogue essay to accompany the major survey of Peryer's work – *Second Nature*, Peter Weiermair commented: "Peryer's intention is to create a few compelling archetypal images that go beyond the careless verbosity of contemporary photography – to create photographs as complex as good poems, which can be read again and always differently."

—GREG DONSON,  
*Curator & Public Programmes Manager*



OPPOSITE: **Peter Peryer**, *Holy Tomato*, 2006, digital inkjet pigment print on paper, 2021/9/8. Collection of the Sarjeant Gallery Te Whare o Rehua Whanganui. Gift of the Peter Peryer estate, 2021

ABOVE: **Peter Peryer**, *Pavilion, Rotorua*, 2010, digital inkjet print on paper, 2021/9/13. Collection of the Sarjeant Gallery Te Whare o Rehua Whanganui. Gift of the Peter Peryer estate, 2021



# Collection Focus: Charles Blomfield

17 DECEMBER–5 MARCH, 2023



This Collection Focus exhibition showcases early New Zealand landscape painter Charles Blomfield (b.1848, d.1926) and is timed to coincide with the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth. Born 5 January 1848 in London, England, Blomfield emigrated to New Zealand as a teenager. After making an attempt

to work the goldfields in Otago he became fascinated by New Zealand's native bush and embarked on a painting career despite having no previous training.

Blomfield travelled extensively throughout New Zealand on painting expeditions leaving his wife Ellen to take care of their seven children. In 1884 he spent six weeks painting numerous views of Te Otukapuarangi, the Pink and White Terraces at Lake Rotomahana, a natural phenomenon popular with tourists and identified as the eighth wonder of the world. Less than two years later on 10 June 1886 the eruption of Mount Tarawera destroyed and submerged the terraces. This devastating event increased the popularity of Blomfield's paintings and he subsequently painted hundreds more scenes of the terraces.

The works in this exhibition include a fiery scene of the Mount Tarawera eruption originally painted by Blomfield and made into a lithograph by A.D. Willis Ltd of Whanganui; another volcanic eruption, Mount Ngauruhoe in 1909, gifted to the Gallery earlier this year; and a farming station at nearby Mangamahu titled *The Shades, Aranui*.

—JENNIFER TAYLOR MOORE,  
*Curator of Collections*

IMAGE: Charles Blomfield *Mt Ngauruhoe in Eruption* 1909, oil on board, 2022/9/1. Gift of the Paltridge family, 2022





## New Zealand Society of Artists in Glass Members Show

22 OCTOBER–29 JANUARY, 2023

The New Zealand Society of Artists in Glass (NZSAG) are pleased to present their 2022 Members Show at the Sarjeant Gallery in collaboration with New Zealand Glassworks.

Featuring over 50 entries from NZSAG members, this exhibition on show at the iSite Gallery demonstrates the breadth and variety of glass practice here in Aotearoa New Zealand: “We hope that this display of vibrancy and innovation of the transformative medium of glass both educates and inspires the community as well as the next generation of glass enthusiasts,” says Emma Camden, President of NZSAG.

The judges were Grace Lai, Curator of Applied Arts & Design, Tāmaki Paenga Hira Auckland War Memorial Museum; Greg Donson, Curator & Public Programmes Manager, Sarjeant Gallery Te Whare o Rehua Whanganui; and Justine Olsen, Curator

of Decorative Art and Design, Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa.

The Lazelle Supreme Award of \$3000, sponsored by Murray and Denise Lazelle, was awarded to Dunedin-based glass artist Mike Crawford for his work *Kāhu*.

The NZSAG Merit Award went to Lisa Bate for her work *The Pack IV*. The winner of the NZSAG Innovation Award was won by Vicki Fanning for her piece *fairgroundunicorn Glass Crown*.

The Money Poppins & Article People’s Choice award will be voted on by the public and awarded at the culmination of the exhibition. The ballot box will be at the front desk of the Sarjeant Gallery on the Quay – so you can vote for your choice, up until the exhibition closes.

A catalogue accompanying the exhibition is available to purchase from the Sarjeant on the Quay shop and New Zealand Glassworks.

IMAGE: Mike Crawford, *Kāhu*, 2022, cast glass.  
Courtesy of the artist.



## Douglas MacDiarmid Centenary

November marked the centenary of Taihape-born painter Douglas Kerr MacDiarmid’s (b. 14 November 1922, d. 26 August 2020) birth. To honour the occasion, the Sarjeant Gallery mounted an exhibition from 29 October until 11 December with a selection of MacDiarmid’s works from our permanent collection. The Collection Focus was just one of many that took place simultaneously around the country to celebrate MacDiarmid and his extensive career.

Despite living in Paris since 1950, MacDiarmid maintained strong links to New Zealand as an expatriate artist, holding numerous solo exhibitions between 1949 and 2018. Although he felt at home in Europe, MacDiarmid kept coming back to New Zealand subject matter throughout his career. His works in the Gallery’s collection are evidence of this.

MacDiarmid’s last visit to New Zealand happened to be on the occasion of the opening for the exhibition *Whanganui River Stories* (February to April, 1996) – a group exhibition at the Sarjeant Gallery, which was part of the 1996 Whanganui River Festival.



Douglas MacDiarmid, *A & P Show, Taihape*, 2001. Collection of the Sarjeant Gallery Te Whare o Rehua Whanganui. Gift of the artist, 2005 (2005/8/1).

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For more information & to keep up to date with news & events visit: [sarjeant.org.nz](https://sarjeant.org.nz)



# Shop at Sarjeant

The Gallery Shop is focused on exquisitely designed and hand-made objects. We aim to showcase fine examples of jewellery, glass, ceramics and prints by the best contemporary artists from around New Zealand and locally. Your purchases help support makers throughout New Zealand and members receive a 10% discount.



**Sarjeant Gallery**  
**Te Whare o Rehua**  
**Whanganui**

**Sarjeant**  
**On the Quay**

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Sarjeant Gallery is a cultural facility of the Whanganui District Council