



The Wellington Sculpture Trust selected Auckland-based artist Ruth Watson's 4 Globes: *Telluric Insurgencies Redux* for the latest iteration of its 4 Plinths Sculpture Project.

# Going global: four sculptures on their way

**RUBY MACANDREW**

A new art installation combining science, art and imagination has been announced for Wellington's waterfront.

The Wellington Sculpture Trust has selected a new work, *4 Globes: Telluric Insurgencies Redux*, by Auckland artist Ruth Watson, for the sixth iteration of its 4 Plinths Sculpture Project situated outside Te Papa.

Sculpture trust administrator Jhana Millers said this year, an open entry call attracted works by 30 artists. They were whittled down to four finalists before Watson's globe concept emerged victorious.

Each of her four dramatic interpretations of Earth will be made of polystyrene with steel interiors, for a total cost of \$40,000.

"My aim is to show us the world anew, encouraging new ways of

thinking about an image we take for granted," Watson said.

The money for the sculptures, which comes from various donors, Wellington City Council grants and fundraising events, has doubled from the initial \$20,000 available when the award began a decade ago.

"We've been able to up the ante so it really attracts top-class submissions," trustee Neil Plimmer said. "I think this one will have a strong public impact because each of the globes will arouse people's curiosity as to what they're saying about Mother Earth."

Entrants are given no design brief, other than that there must be four pieces, leaving the end result entirely up to the artist.

Watson's winning entry uses a variety of materials to stretch and represent maps and globes to transform their meanings and challenge the way the world is normally represented.



Ruth Watson's globes will soon grace the waterfront, thanks to a \$40,000 commission by the Wellington Sculpture Trust.

PHOTO: FIONA GOODALL/STUFF

One globe represents movement in the wake of earthquakes, based on satellite imagery, while another shows the world without water, based on a Dutch map dated about 1690.

"It's good to have a sculpture up that will intrigue and entice people to stop and read about it," Plimmer said.

The four plinths are the massive bollards situated on the waterfront between Te Papa and Circa Theatre, where the Wellington Sculpture Trust installs temporary works every two years.

"It's a fantastic site to put temporary sculpture on even though they were never intended for artworks."

Watson's sculpture will form part of the New Zealand International Arts Festival's visual arts programme, beginning in February next year. It will remain in place between Te Papa and Circa Theatre until 2020.