

**From:** Wellington Sculpture Trust wellingtonsculpture@xtra.co.nz  
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## Sculpture News, April 2018

PAT V with Paul & Fran Dibble, & Bob Jahnke, Ferns II, Fundraiser to Naoshima Art Island, 4 Plinths #6, Parking Day, New Trustee.

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## Public Art Talk V: Paul Dibble MNZM & Robert Jahnke ONZM

Our next Public Art Talk (PAT V) will take us on the road to the studios of sculptors Paul & Fran Dibble, and Robert (Bob) Jahnke in Palmerston North on Thursday 17 May.

Paul Dibble MNZM has a very well-established sculpture practice and is particularly noted for the range of large bronze works which he has cast and installed over five plus decades. His works often include human forms and objects drawn from contemporary life. Three great examples are to be found in Frank Kitts Park, Moore Wilsons, and on the roundabout near the Airport. He is currently developing a major work for Featherston to match the wonderful monument which he created for installation at Hyde Park Corner to commemorate the lives of New Zealand soldiers lost in the First and Second World Wars.

Paul and his wife Fran will do a 'pour' at their studio to coincide with our visit and will talk about his bronze techniques, the challenges involved in developing works for public spaces, and the inspiration which informs the subject-matter of his work.

After this studio visit, and a stop for lunch, we will head to Massey University Palmerston North, to meet Bob Jahnke ONZM at his studio; another widely-recognised sculptor and the artist behind our work *Spinning Top* in Woodward Street. Bob is a Professor and Senior Lecturer at Massey University's Whiti O Rehua School of Art and was recognised in 2017 for his contribution to the arts. Primarily a sculptor, Bob is one of New Zealand's leading contemporary Māori artists working in a range of media, including found objects, steel, light and lead. Of Samoan-German-Irish-Māori heritage, his work often explores political issues that face Māori people,



the relationship between Māori and European colonisers and the impact of Christianity on Māori culture.

The visit will start at 10.45 am with the Dibble's 'pour' planned for 11 am then the visit to Bob Jahnke at approximately 2pm. Guests will need to make their own way to Palmerston North and back, however we can help with car-pooling so please let us know if you would like to travel with others or need assistance with travel.

Our visit to the Dibbles is being kindly facilitated by Marcia Page at Page Blackie Gallery in Wellington.

If you are interested in joining us for this visit, please RVSP by 1 May to [wellingtonsculpture@xtra.co.nz](mailto:wellingtonsculpture@xtra.co.nz).

**When:** Thursday 17 May

**Where:** Palmerston North, studios of Paul & Fran Dibble & Bob Jahnke

**Time:** Arrive Paul & Fran Dibble's Studio 10.45am, depart Bob Jahnke's studio at 3.30pm.

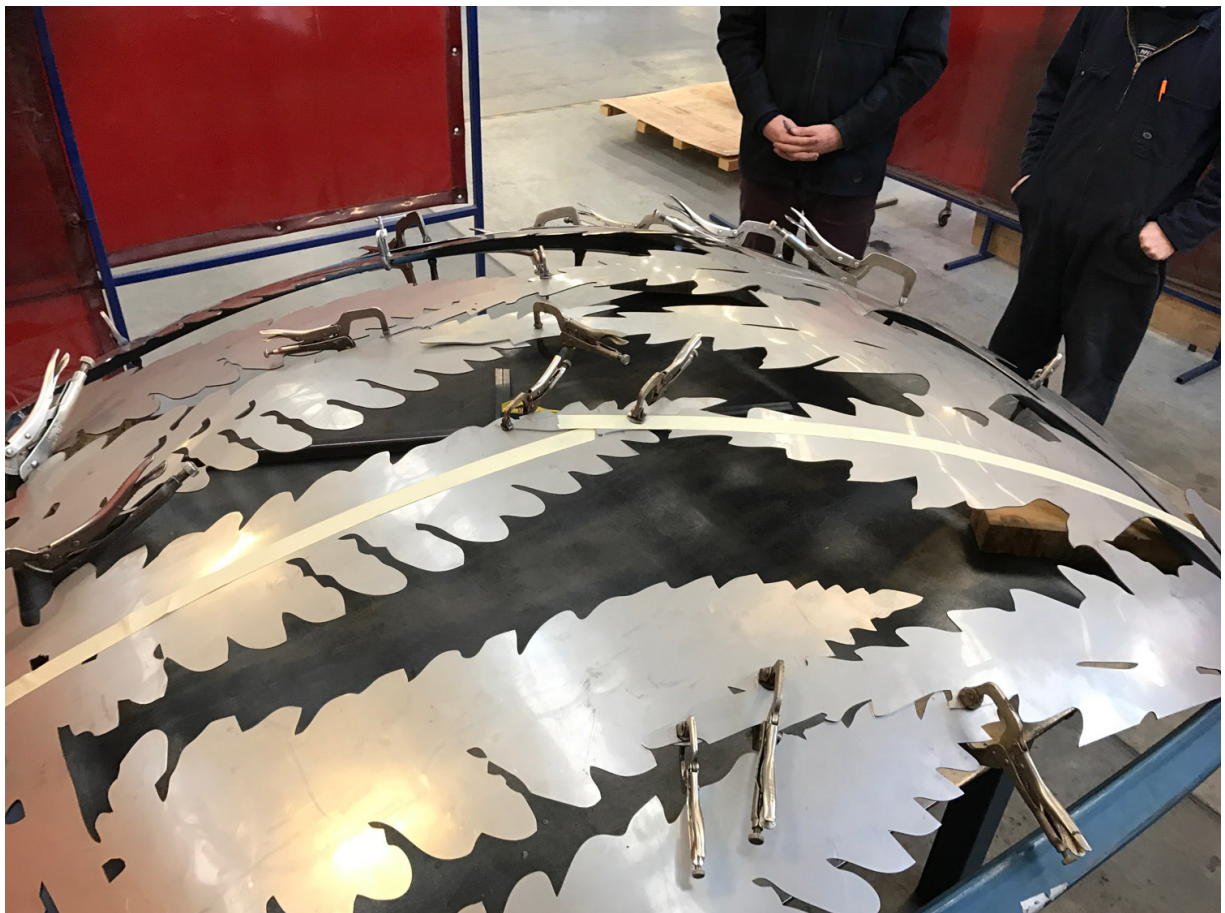
For more information on Paul Dibble please visit: [pageblackiegallery.co.nz/artists/paul-dibble/](http://pageblackiegallery.co.nz/artists/paul-dibble/)

For more information on Bob Jahnke please visit: [sculpture.org.nz/the-sculptures/artists/robert-jahnke](http://sculpture.org.nz/the-sculptures/artists/robert-jahnke)

Images above:

Top: Paul Dibble, Fruits of the Garden, Frank Kitts Park, Wellington

Bottom: Bob Jahnke, Spinning Top, Woodward Street, Wellington



## Ferns II – back in its rightful place

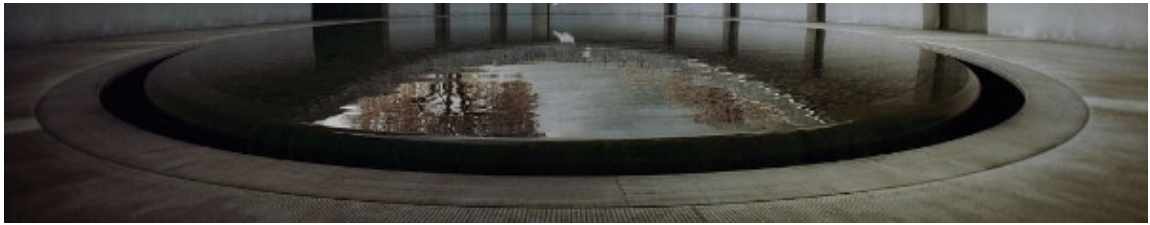
Pencil Friday 29 June in your diary! We have a building consent exemption, the ferns have been made, the ribs are completed, and we have been working to find the right time to work around Civic Square festivities and happenings. At long last we are set to have this Wellington Icon (we use the word advisedly) back in its rightful place. We are just awaiting final approval from one of the artist's contractors to do the internal painting of the globe.

It has been a long journey since the original *Ferns* came down – a tale of earthquakes, engineers, fundraising and other commitments from virtually all parties. We are extremely grateful to the people who have helped us with the fundraising which is now complete. ANZ Bank was the first to provide us with funding as an original sponsor and they were followed closely by Wellington City Council Public Art Fund, the Nikau Foundation, Wellington Community Trust and the Deane Endowment Trust. Still it could not have been managed without the support of many of our members and the general public who have generously given to make the re-commissioning and installation possible. We are enormously grateful for all this support.

We think the timing is apt as it is the start of the Wellington City Council's official celebrations for Matariki. A formal invitation will be sent soon.

Image above: Ferns under construction in Neil Dawson's studio





## Visit to Naoshima art island, Japan, May/June 2019

We are interested in planning a trip to Naoshima art island in May/June of 2019, to see the spectacular architecture of Tadao Ando and the site specific sculptures/artworks on the Island. The artworks include pieces by Yayoi Kusama, Walter De Maria, James Turrell, Anthony Caro, George Rickey and many more. We intend to make a group booking for 20 people (maximum) at the museum/hotel Benesse Art Site.

Those that have visited Naoshima return enthralled by the experience and the extraordinary fusion of sculpture, art and architecture.

For more information please our website <https://www.sculpture.org.nz/news-and-events/events/naoshima-visit-2019> to read an essay on Naoshima by Stephen McDougall of Studio Pacific Architecture, who recently returned from the Island. You can also view more about the Benesse Art Site on their website here: <http://benesse-artsite.jp/en/>

If you are interested in coming with us on this trip please email us with your expression of interest as soon as possible so we can insure a booking for 2019. Because of the limited number of spaces for the trip we will prioritise those who respond first.







**4 Plinths Sculpture Award #6, Other Worlds, Ruth Watson**

The wide spaces of Wellington's waterfront and the Te Papa forecourt are now occupied by four large globes of Earth and Mars and the opening function was attended by some 70 people on 21 February 2018.

The launch of Ruth Watson's *Other Worlds*, the Trust's sixth work on the 4 Plinths, was initiated by a karakia from the elders and supporters of Te Papa, followed by short speeches by Trust Chair Sue Elliott, Artist Ruth Watson and CEO of Te Papa Geraint Martin. During his remarks Geraint noted a seagull perched on one of the globes and speculated that the Arctic region of the globes might steadily expand over the two years. The speeches were followed by a reception with music led by Hannah Fraser and wine from our sponsor Seresin.

*Other Worlds* conveys enigmatic and unfamiliar views of Earth and Mars, each open to a variety of interpretations and challenging new ways of looking at these globes. One represents earth movement in the wake of earthquakes based on satellite imagery; another the world without water based on an early Dutch map dated around 1690; the third based on NASA data represents variations in the earth's gravitational field; while the fourth is an old vision of Mars.







## PARK(ing) Day 2018

On Friday 9 March in association with the Wellington City Council and with support from Creative Communities



with many volunteers, in association with the Wellington City Council and with support from Creative Communities, we held Wellington's fourth version of PARK(ing) Day. Providing temporary public open spaces one parking spot at a time.

We called for expressions of interest to take over a parking space for a day and 19 groups of Wellingtonians answered the call using 24 car parks. These parks contained everything from dancers, story-tellers and musicians to a storm-water drain, virtual reality forest and an environmental confession booth.

PARK(ing) Day ran from 8am - 6pm and was located on Cuba Street, Lower, Mid and Upper and to make it easy, at every PARK a map was available to take people on their PARK(ing) Day journey.

The Sculpture Trust also ran a 'People's Choice' and 'Judge's Choice' award for the day where the winners received \$500 each. The winner of the People's Choice award was Onslow College's park, Treecycle, which was an informative and participatory space that educated people about upcycling and the environmental issues around plastic bags. The Judge's Choice award was split between Occupation: Artist, Exhausted, and Studio Pacific Architecture, Swing. Exhausted consisted of over 2000 mini die-cast cars painstakingly 'parked' in a grid format, mimicking a very congested road. Swing was an engineered wooden seat swing suspended over a park of bark chips. Thank you to our judges Elizabeth Thomson, Helen Kedgley & Paula Savage.

More images and video on our Facebook page – [facebook.com/Wellington-Sculpture-Trust](https://facebook.com/Wellington-Sculpture-Trust)

Images above:

Top: Swing, Studio Pacific Architecture

Middle: Exhausted: Occupation: Artist

Bottom: Treecycle: Onslow College

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## Trustees

A stalwart of the Trust and trustee for a number of years, we have reluctantly accepted Richard Burrell's resignation as he focuses on other projects. Richard has been a huge contributor to the Trust in providing practical advice on maintenance, problem-solving with engineering issues, storage for our sculptures, and space for our artists. He was also a key organiser of our Gibbs Farm visits and other fundraising activities. We know Richard will not be a stranger and will probably live to regret offering his ongoing assistance. We are most grateful for his years of service and his ongoing commitment to public art.

Last month we welcomed Ray Ahipene-Mercer to his first Trust Board meeting. We are thrilled that Ray has agreed to join our Board. He needs no introduction to Wellingtonians, having been a Wellington City Councillor for the Eastern Ward for 16 years, a great advocate for the arts, an environmentalist, and a musician and guitar-maker. Ray has been a huge supporter and friend of the Wellington Sculpture Trust over many years and will bring a great deal of knowledge to our table.

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## Other notes for your diary:

PAT V – Dibble /Jahnke visit: 17 May 2018

LUX Light Festival: 18 – 27 May 2018

Matariki fireworks display Wellington Harbour: July 7 2018

PAT VI – Ruth Watson: Oct 2018

Gibbs Farm Visit: Feb 2019

Naoshima Art Island visit: May/June 2019



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