



wellington sculpture trust
for a city of sculpture

SCULPTURE NEWS

December 2017

SCULPTURE OPENING ON 21 FEBRUARY 2018



Other Worlds, Ruth Watson, artist render

A major new artwork will enter Wellington's public domain on the 4 Plinths between Te Papa and Circa Theatre, at 5.30 pm on Wednesday 21 February 2018 at a pre-opening of the New Zealand Festival.

Commissioned by the Wellington Sculpture Trust for \$40,000 and entitled *Other Worlds*, the work, by eminent New Zealand artist Ruth Watson of Auckland, comprises four spheres, one on each plinth, representing challenging interpretations of Earth and Mars.

Each piece is made of polystyrene with steel interiors. One represents earth's 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 material represents variations in the earth's gravitational field, while the fourth is an old vision of Mars.

The artist states, *"the globes offer images of the world that are not entirely familiar. Each is based on an existing model but remains unexpected. My aim is to show us the world anew, encouraging new ways of thinking about an image we take for granted."*

Ruth will speak at the opening on site. She is an internationally recognised artist who has had over 25 solo exhibitions in New Zealand, Australia, Europe and the USA.

The sculpture will be the sixth in the 4 Plinths Sculpture Award which has now been running for 10 years. Each work remains on site for two years. The existing work, Kereama Taepa's *a (very) brief history of aotearoa*, will be decommissioned early in 2018.

PAT IV: STUDIO TALK WITH ELIZABETH THOMSON

Elizabeth Thomson, with the support of her Wellington dealer gallery, Page Blackie Gallery, hosted a talk and tour at her studio space in Newtown on Saturday 4 November.

Elizabeth, who has served as an Arts Adviser to the Trust for several years, is an artist of national and international acclaim. During the talk Elizabeth spoke about her strong interest in the environment and natural forms which have inspired her works and her development over the years.

Elizabeth is a versatile and technically savvy artist, whose studio reflected this in the range of equipment which she has on hand. For a long time, she has worked in bronze, as used for her leaves, but also in a large public work commissioned for an Auckland building where she cast 500 small fish. She also uses a range of other

techniques, including flocking, screen printing, and the employment of glass beading on surfaces to create light effects in order to enhance the visual imagery of her photographic works.

Elizabeth explained the various techniques which she uses and also

showed us how some of these (e.g. wax moulding, flocking) are done.

Elizabeth is currently finalising an exhibition of her works for Aratoi, the Wairarapa Museum of Art and History in Masterton, running 9 December through to 5 April 2018.



NEW FERNS

At long last the artist and contractors have supplied the information for us to apply for a Building Consent Exemption. We are on target for an unveiling in the first quarter of 2018.

We would like to thank all our members who have donated so generously and we are now only \$23,000 short of our target. Also a special thank you to Victoria Bennett, Project Manager (Public Art) Parks, Sport & Recreation, Wellington City Council, who has been at the ready for many months waiting to take this project through the Council processes.

Neil Dawson is now well and truly underway in his studio in Christchurch.

PLIMMER'S ARK

We are working through the design phase for the sculpture to be made from the timbers of the Inconstant and sited on Wellington's waterfront. It has not been easy to develop this work given the age of the wood and the preservation treatment it had only partially received.

A wood conservation report we commissioned tells us the timber was treated in a manner that would last in a dry or wet environment. However, it should not be exposed to both, as would be the case on the waterfront. The timbers would deteriorate too quickly for the comfort of the Trust.

We are working through this issue with Glen and have asked him to reconsider his proposal.

PARK(ING) DAY WELLINGTON 2018



Diminishing Space

Next year's PARK(ing) Day event, held with the support of the Wellington City Council, will be on Friday 9 March 2018 with up to 25 spaces available in lower, mid, and upper Cuba Street.

We hope that the event, which will fall during the New Zealand Festival, will be even more diverse, vibrant and engaging than the previous three.

This year, for the first time, we have secured some funding from the Creative Communities Fund to promote the greater involvement of young people and more diverse participants.

The mission of PARK(ing) Day is

- to call attention to the need for more urban open space,
- to generate critical debate around how public space is used, created and allocated, and
- to improve the quality of urban human habitat

PARK(ing) Day is an annual open-source global event where citizens,

artists and designers collaborate temporarily to transform metered parking spaces into temporary public places.

For the Trust, it is an opportunity to support an event which is open to all and where 'sculptural' expression can be interpreted much more loosely and creatively.

We are seeking submissions from people or groups who would like to take over an inner city car park for the day. Applications are due by Sunday 28 January 2018.

If you have friends or colleagues who might be interested in taking part, please encourage them to go to the Trust's website for details.

Mark your diaries for a wander down Cuba Street on March 9 2018.

How to apply?

Please see the Sculpture Trust website for more information and to download a brief: sculpture.org.nz

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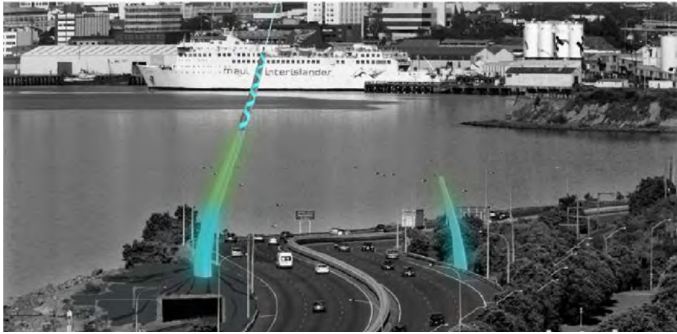
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HOOK OF MAUI

We are very enthusiastic to be exploring this work again which was first developed in 2008. Thanks to new technology in the field of spar making, the artists, Wraight + Associates, Taika Waititi and Claude Hidber, are working with spar makers to investigate whether this gateway sculpture for the north of the city is now feasible. We see the timing of this and the opportunities the new technology presents as an exciting prospect.



Hook of Maui
Artist render
Hut line tunnel / Aerial
view south along
Wellington urban
motorway

CIVIC SQUARE

Wellington City Council, through the Mayor's discretionary fund, asked the Trust to select a work for the wall of the Library building at the entrance to the Civic Square. This is an exciting opportunity to enhance this highly public space. The work will be semi-permanent (possibly 5 years) in light of the changes to take place in the civic centre. We expect the work to be installed by early to mid 2018. We are currently working with two artists in the process to select one to undertake this sculpture.

NEW TRUSTEE

DR RUTH E. HARLEY CNZM

Ruth Harley held senior leadership roles and CEO roles in a variety of cultural organisations for some 30 years. She began her career at Creative New Zealand (then the QE11 Arts Council) followed by TVNZ, NZ On Air, Saatchi and Saatchi and most recently, Screen Australia.

Ruth has also served on a variety of trusts and boards in the cultural and commercial sector. These include Wellington's Waterfront, the Len Lye Foundation, Film New Zealand and the New Zealand Players Trust.



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