

OXFORD ARTS TRUST

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Press Release – exhibition last days

LOCALity – Arts in Oxford gallery, 72 Main St, Oxford

Exhibition: 9 June - 10 July 2018

www.artsinxford.com

LOCALity: a group exhibition exploring location, materiality & positioning

Arts in Oxford is pleased to present a selection of artworks by Canterbury artists Mark Adams, Mike Boot, Tony Bond, Cheryl Lucas, Elfi Spiewack, Tessa Warburton and Celia Wilson.

Artists each have diverse, unique practices but collectively are themes of rural life that connect all the works. Local geology, farming industry, water issues, native and introduced flora, recycling, repurposing are all reflected in this curated exhibition.

Mark Adams, Oxford

Photographer Mark Adams attended Canterbury University School of Fine Arts from 1967 to 1970. He subsequently became well known for work concerned with cross-cultural interactions around Rotorua, Samoan tatau (tattooing) among the diaspora in New Zealand, the voyages of Captain Cook and other dimensions of colonial history in New Zealand, elsewhere in the Pacific, and in Europe. His work has been exhibited at biennales in Sao Paulo and Johannesburg, and in countries including Australia, Britain, Canada, the Netherlands and New Zealand.

Specialising in 10" x 8" analogue photography this image in five parts is a view from Cairn Hill of the area of Canterbury Plains traversed by the mid Canterbury Waimakariri - Rakaia irrigation scheme.

Mike Boot, Coopers Creek

Local tradesman Mike Boot in his formal training Mike has a background in sheet metal, stone masonry and home decorating. A love for the great outdoors has increased his knowledge of native plants particularly of the foothill and subalpine region. Mike home and garden is filled with eclectic compositions, testimony to his appreciation of found objects, local timbers and native plants.

The furniture and adornments on exhibit incorporate natural found materials many found on forays along river beds and into the forest.

Tony Bond, Lyttleton

Between the mid-eighties and late nineties Tony Bond studied Visual Communications at Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology CPIT (now ARA), Fine Arts in Whanganui, returning to CPIT to complete a Bachelor of Design. His practice over this time has encompassed design, illustration, drawing, sculpture and installation. Artworks have been exhibited in New Zealand and abroad, including a solo exhibition at Christchurch Art Gallery.

Tony is driven to make the ordinary extraordinary and return value to disposable items. He disturbs our domesticity by transforming everyday objects into oversized, perplexing structures demanding our attention and reflection.

Cheryl Lucas, Lyttleton

Cheryl Lucas received a Fine and Applied Arts DipFA (with a distinction in graphics) from Otago School Art in 1975, and an advanced Certificate in Lithography from Wimbeldon School of Art in 1978. She taught students drawing and ceramics at the ARA Institute, Christchurch from 1987-2005. Since then, she has been making full-time from her home in Lyttleton. Widely exhibited, Lucas' work can be found in collections around New Zealand, Australasian Ceramic Museum, Fuping, China, and the Museu Del Cantir D'Argentona, Spain.

Milkstock was awarded a Merit prize for international Portage Ceramics Awards 2017. In the accompanying catalogue Lucas writes, "My Dad 'borrowed' a kitchen jug and mixed concoctions for farm use. Things change their character through use and circumstance". The bulbous glazed porcelain vessels recall childhood memories of farm life on historic Bendigo Station (1947 to 1979) in Tarras, Central Otago - recollections that are altered with fading time.

Elfi Spiewack, Christchurch

Born in Germany, Elfi moved to New Zealand in 1999 and is currently based in Christchurch, where she shares 'The Filing Kabinett', a jewellery workshop and showroom with fellow jeweller Jeremy Leeming. She has exhibited widely in New Zealand, Germany, Australia, the Netherlands and the USA, and is respected throughout as a technically skilled and innovative contemporary jeweller and designer.

While conventional jeweller's metals of silver and gold often form the basis of her work, Elfi enjoys incorporating found objects into her designs, elevating non-precious materials to the realm of precious jewellery. These necklaces of polished sheep bone have a known provenance being from the same flock.

Tessa Warburton, Oxford

Tessa Warburton is a bookbinder and artist living in Oxford. Also trained in printmaking at Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology CPIT (now ARA) Tessa is an accomplished print maker, and was an assistant printer at PaperGraphica Print Studio for many years

These works are created with off cuts and waste from book restoration. Tessa finds beauty hidden in the spines of old books and under their covers that speaks of old practices and processes. Just as there is beauty in the minute details of how things break down, weather, and decay in the world around us. They have their own story to tell.

Celia Wilson, Oxford

Celia completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree at Elam School of Fine Art, University of Auckland in 2007, and a Bachelor of Fine Arts with Honours at Canterbury University in 2008. Whilst Celia uses conventional artist paint, since 2007 she has also been researching the availability and the historical and current uses of earth, mineral and plant pigments in New Zealand, mainly those of North Canterbury and Banks Peninsula. Using paint made with the mediums of watercolour, acrylic or oil, she endeavours to reveal the characteristics and intrinsic qualities of the pigments.

Pigments also define place by linking their unique attributes to location. Form and image in her works are developed with the minimum of intent and intervention on the part of the artist, to allow the materiality of the paint to express itself.



LOCALity installed at Arts in Oxford, 2018. © Arts In Oxford

ABOUT Arts in Oxford

Arts in Oxford established 2010 is located at 72 Main St, Oxford is a community arts centre run as a non-profit charitable trust and staffed by volunteers.

The Gallery hosts exhibitions by local, national and overseas artists. The gift shop offers a wide range of quality New Zealand artworks including ceramics, glass, jewellery, textiles, paintings and prints.

Arts In Oxford 03 312 1639
Open 10am-4pm Tues –Sun
www.artsinoxford.com

**CREATING AN ENVIRONMENT THAT GIVES OPPORTUNITIES TO PEOPLE OF ALL AGES TO
CREATE, LEARN, EXPLORE, DEMONSTRATE AND DISPLAY VISUAL ARTS**

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