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Tairāwhiti
MUSEUM
Te Whare Taonga o te Tairāwhiti

Tui! Tui! Tuituia!

Quarterly newsletter of the Tairāwhiti Museum & Art Gallery
Te Whare Taonga O Te Tairāwhiti

POWER DRESSING:

CHINESE &
KOREAN TEXTILES
FROM THE JACK C RICHARDS
COLLECTION



30 April - 11 July



*Chinese Dragon Robe
- Ji Fu (mid to late 20th
Century). The fabric is silk
satin, and the embroidery
has been done in floss silk
thread, with artificial gold
thread used to create the
spectacular glitter of the
dragons.*

Professor Jack Richards has been collecting embroidered Chinese and Korean robes for more than twenty years. Jolene Douglas, the museum's exhibitions curator, has selected twelve garments from this Sydney based collection to create Power Dressing, an exhibition that demonstrates the extraordinary range and quality of Korean and Chinese textile makers and embroiderers of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries who continued to adhere to the traditions of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). The intricacy of the embroidery will fascinate both experienced practitioners and those who aspire to such standards of excellence.

Dr Damian Skinner, exhibition curator, went to Sydney to consult with an expert on Asian textiles:

"The most interesting thing for me was working with Christina Sumner from the Powerhouse Museum, Sydney, and hearing her analyse the textiles from a formal point of view - what they are made of, how they were woven or embroidered. It was like a domestic CSI: all this hidden information coming to light. It was also interesting to find out more about the relationship between tradition and power, to spend time looking at and thinking about garments which are effectively symbolic representations of whole world views, a way of understanding how the universe is ordered."



EXHIBIT
C A F E

Open Monday to Saturday from 10am

For fantastic food in a relaxed and tranquil setting.



Our Spanish Connection

The Spanish Ambassador, His Excellency Mr Marcos Gómez Martínez, and the Mayor of Gisborne, Meng Foon, are being led in the bullock wagon by Mr Katene to the opening of the Spanish Exploration in the Pacific exhibition at Tairāwhiti Museum on 17 December 2009. This was an important occasion for the Manuel Jose whanāu.



Blessing for New Entrance

Dr Apirana Mahuika performed the blessing for the new museum entrance on 12 February. Generous grants towards this project were made by Professor Jack Richards, Lion Foundation Eastern, Central Community Trust and the Clarke Charitable Trust. Attending the blessing were: Mere Pohatu (Trustee, Eastern and Central Community Trust), Jolene Douglas (Museum Exhibitions Curator), Romia Whaanga (Museum Trustee), Jill Armstrong (Friend of the Museum), Dr David Butts (Museum Director), Dr Apirana Mahuika (Chairman Museum Trust Board) and Professor Jack Richards (Friend of the Museum).



Iwirākau Carving Demonstration

Ngāti Porou carver Jack Brooking from Te Araroa spent one week at the museum giving carving demonstrations for school classes and museum visitors as part of the Iwirākau exhibition. Museum visitors, particularly those from overseas, valued the opportunity to speak directly to a local carver who was able to explain the features of the carvings in the Iwirākau exhibition. The carving demonstrations were sponsored by Te Puni Kōkiri and Te Runanga o Ngāti Porou.



photo courtesy *The Gisborne Herald*

Rowing Heritage Restored

Tom Couper donated this Gisborne Rowing Club pre World War One rowing scull to the museum recently. Mr Couper, formerly a cabinet maker, has used these skills to restore this wooden scull to its former glory. The craftsmanship employed in making these craft in earlier times is evidence in this scull and we are very fortunate to be able to accept this gift for the collection.

New Concourse Gallery

Not Just Black and White, hand coloured photographs of people and places of the East Coast, is the first exhibition to be installed in the newly constructed Concourse Gallery. The exhibition, curated by Dudley L Meadows, demonstrates the range of hand coloured images to be found in the museum's photography collection. The earliest image in the exhibition is of the Turanganui River in 1873.



Museum Education Programme

The museum has been successful in renewing the three year contract with the Ministry of Education for the delivery of Learning Experiences Outside the Classroom. The Museum Education programme delivers programmes to schools from Te Araroa to Wairoa. In this photograph, taken in February 2010, Education Officer Jennifer Pewhairangi is seen working with students from Sunrise Christian School who are learning about the historic journey of the Horouta waka.

Iwirākau Lectures Series

This photograph was taken at the Iwirākau lecture given by Professor Bob Jahnke (Māori Studies, Massey University) and Ngarino Ellis (Art History, Auckland University) on Wednesday 3 February 2010. The audience ranged from students through to kaumātua and came from as far afield as Te Araroa. Sir Henry Ngata acknowledged the high standard of the lectures and emphasised the importance of documenting the legacy of Te Rawheoro and Iwirākau. This lecture series was sponsored by Te Puni Kōkiri and Te Runanga o Ngāti Porou.



Friends of the Museum Lecture Series

Dr Robin Woodward, a lecturer in Art History at Auckland University, delivered the first in a series of three lectures about art in public places. Robin delighted her enthusiastic audience with an illustrated exploration of the way public sculpture transforms public places and she had some useful advice for those interested in public sculpture in Gisborne.

Her advice was to cater for a range of interests and tastes and to bring distinction to our public art by commissioning a small number of works by NZ artists who have connections with Tairāwhiti and who have established national reputations. This brought to mind artists such as Derek Lardelli, Brett Graham and Robert Jahnke.



Robert Jahnke,
Spinning Top, Wellington

Lecture Two: The heART of this Place: Waitakere City

Date: Wednesday 24 March
Venue: Tairāwhiti Museum
Time: 5.30pm

Waitakere City Council is widely recognised for its innovative public art projects. Naomi McCleary, Waitakere City Council Arts Officer, will outline the history of public art in Waitakere City and talk about the process of bringing together artists, planners, and architects to facilitate the inclusion of artworks in the development of new buildings and other public places. At the heart of this strategy is the belief that artists have an important role in creating and sustaining public spaces for the community. Waitakere City has demonstrated the benefits of developing a policy and vision for art in public places that acknowledges tangata whenua and also reflects the increasingly multicultural nature of our communities. The Waitakere City Council public art policy is also aligned with their commitment to environmental sustainability.

Lecture Three: An Artist's Perspective

Date: Wednesday 21 April
Venue: Tairāwhiti Museum
Time: 5.30pm

Sculptor Brett Graham will talk about his experience as an artist involved in public art projects. Dr Graham is a sculptor of national and international reputation. He is known for his ability to abstract complex historical and cultural ideas into formally strong and beautiful sculptural forms. He created a major sculptural work for the old Broadcasting House site next to Parliament.



Adam Ellis Sculpture, Waitakere City

Museum Jewellery Project



The museum has asked Margaret Wirepa, Gisborne-based gemologist and jewellery appraiser, to describe and assess the museum's jewellery collection. Expert evaluation of the collection enhances museum records, provides the detailed descriptions required for insurance inventories and ensures accurate and informative labels for the items when they are included in museum exhibitions.

There are 138 items in the jewellery collection, including brooches, bracelets, pendants, necklaces, chains, locketts, dress studs, and rings. Eighty seven of these items of jewellery are in the Lysnar Collection gifted to the museum by Winifred Lysnar in the 1950s. An Edwardian (circa 1900-1910) cameo brooch and two cameo pendant earrings from the Lysnar collection are currently

on display in Watersheds: Nga Waipupū, the museum's regional history exhibition. It was while researching these cameos for Watersheds that it was realised how useful it would be to have the whole jewellery collection evaluated.

The jewellery project will be completed soon and the museum will exhibit the most interesting items from the collection in the Concourse Gallery in March 2011.



This layered agate, gold plated pill box, may not, strictly speaking, be jewellery, but when we gave it to Margaret to examine she was impressed by the "fabulous workmanship."

H.B. Williams Memorial Library

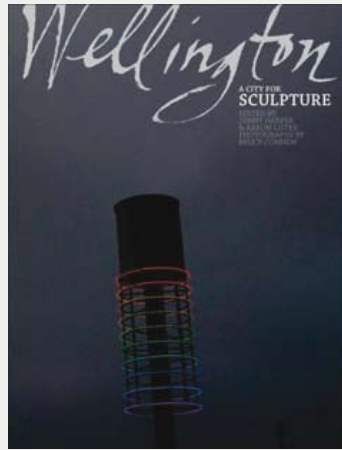
The purpose of art is washing the dust of the daily life off our souls".

Pablo Picasso

At a recent public lecture held at the Tairawhiti Museum, Dr Robin Woodward of Auckland University stated 'By definition, public art must have an artistic element but also satisfy the people. The key is to get a balance between them' Therein lies the rub. Not all 'the people' will ever agree that a public art work is 'good' and nor will those who consider themselves knowledgeable about art think that many public art works to have even a shred of artistic value.

There is a growing sense amongst some locals that a number of sculptures have, in recent years, been placed on sites around town without the necessary forward planning that would take account of suitability of site and consultation with the community. Due consideration should also be given to commissioning local artists. Tourists are seen daily having photographs taken next to public art works made by 'outsiders'. But this is our town and perhaps our stories need to be told first. That will be for us to decide.

As Gisborne does not yet have a defined public art policy and the Gisborne District Council really does want to get a strategy sorted, now is the time to have your say in an informed manner. We have two great opportunities to augment our knowledge right now. The first is to get along to the next two lectures about Art in Public Places at Tairawhiti Museum (Naomi McLeary on 24 March and Brett Graham on 21 April). The second opportunity is to take advantage of the wonderful selection of books in the Public Library about art in public places in other cities.



Wellington: a city for sculpture

Wellington: a city for sculpture

After 25 years of contemporary public art installations in Wellington the city now has a deserved reputation for its public art. This book is a collection of essays covering different aspects of the works, their histories and locations. It is well worth reading. Interestingly two of the authors and one of the sculptors have strong Gisborne connections. The library also holds a pocket guide to Wellington's sculptures.



The heART of this place by Waitakere City Council

The heART of this place by Waitakere City Council

Waitakere is the darling of local authorities when it comes to collaboration between urban designers, architects and artists involved in new projects in public places. Their Council requires that a lead artist be part of a design team for all new building projects in the city and the results have been spectacular. This is a

booklet and video showcasing some of the projects and how visions can be realized. Naomi McLeary, the council's Arts Officer, advises councils nationwide.

City Art : New York's Percent for Art Program

The Percent for Art programme is ambitious and it works. Believing that art is an expression of community and that it can create notable landmarks, there is a requirement that city building projects must spend 1% of the cost of the project on artworks for the building or surrounding area. Over the last thirty years this policy has led to the placement of art works that greatly enhance the city environment. Whilst this book does not say so explicitly, the many pictures of public art works in the book suggest that public artworks reduce vandalism in public places and increase the sense of public ownership and pride.



*Protestant sampler
Peter Ireland, 1999
Oil on paper*

ART FOR ARTS SAKE

HB Williams Memorial Library has an extensive collection of local artworks and photographs available to borrow.

Create inspiration to any home, office, waiting room, real estate open home, or just show off to your friends!

Visit our website to view the entire artwork collection.
www.gpl.govt.nz

artworks |  Library

Temporary Exhibition Programme: March - May

Current Exhibitions:

Not Just Black & White: Hand coloured photographs from the museum's collection of East Coast people and places.

Ki Wiwi Ki Wawa: Ngati Porou Artists from home and away present paintings, sculpture and video works.

Treaty 2 U: The history of the Treaty of Waitangi and the recognition and settlement of treaty grievances.



Gisborne 1947 -Not Just Black & White

Upcoming Exhibitions

Gisborne Artists Society and Pottery Group 2010

- 26 March Paintings, prints and ceramics by members of the Gisborne Artists Society and Potters Group.
2 May Exhibition Opening 5:30pm Friday 26 March

New Zealand and the Vietnam War

- 31 March A history of New Zealand's participation in the Vietnam War from 1964 to 1972. While many protested against New Zealand's involvement, thirty seven New Zealand Soldiers were killed and 187 were wounded in Vietnam.
14 May

Power Dressing; Jack Richards' Textile Collection

- 30 April Chinese and Korean robes (see Newsletter cover)
11 July Exhibition Opening 5:30pm Friday 30 April

Our Stories: Disability Awareness

- 7 May Ordinary moments in the lives of people living with a disability are portrayed through images and stories.
11 July

Nigel Brown: The Written Word

- 21 May Paintings and prints from the collections of Nigel Brown, the James Wallace Trust and Tairāwhiti Museum.
4 July Brown is an artist of strong convictions about environmental issues, New Zealand history and the importance of the arts in our cultural traditions.



*Stairs, Baye Riddell
Tairāwhiti Museum Collection*



*Pine Taiapa, Nigel Brown
Tairāwhiti Museum Collection*