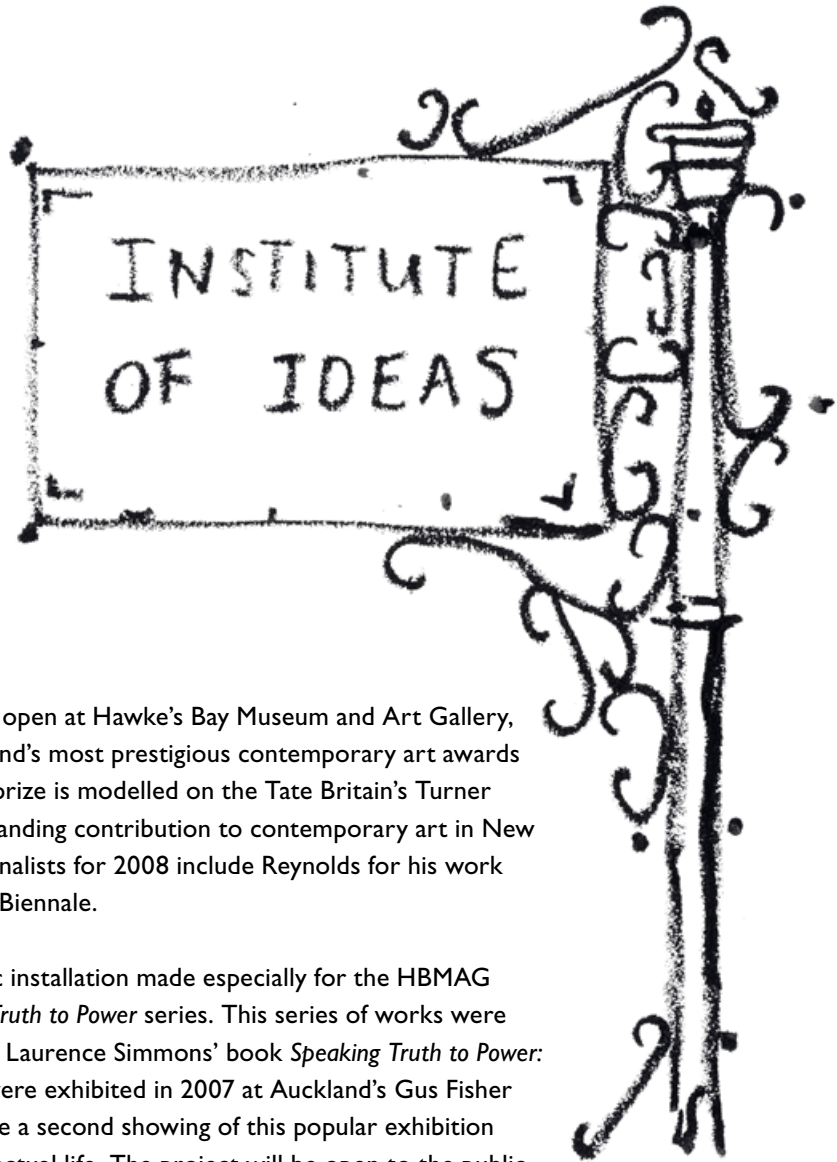


MEDIA RELEASE

Hawke's Bay Museum and Art Gallery artist a finalist in major contemporary art award

**Speaking Truth to Power
An exhibition by John Reynolds
Wednesday 21st May – Sunday 14th
September 2008**



John Reynolds, whose exhibition is about to open at Hawke's Bay Museum and Art Gallery, has just been selected for one of New Zealand's most prestigious contemporary art awards – The Walters Prize. The \$50 000 Walters prize is modelled on the Tate Britain's Turner Prize, and is awarded biannually for an outstanding contribution to contemporary art in New Zealand over the past two years. The four finalists for 2008 include Reynolds for his work *Cloud*, which was shown at the 2006 Sydney Biennale.

Reynolds has been working on a site-specific installation made especially for the HB MAG to accompany an exhibition of his *Speaking Truth to Power* series. This series of works were originally created to provide illustrations for Laurence Simmons' book *Speaking Truth to Power: Public Intellectuals Rethink New Zealand* and were exhibited in 2007 at Auckland's Gus Fisher Gallery. HB MAG was lucky enough to secure a second showing of this popular exhibition which playfully explores New Zealand intellectual life. The project will be open to the public from Wednesday 21st May.

Reynolds' *Speaking Truth to Power* exhibition provides a great opportunity for Hawke's Bay residents to visit HB MAG and experience the work of one of New Zealand's leading contemporary artists.

The public will also have the chance to talk with Reynolds directly when he holds a floor talk in the gallery on **Saturday 31st May at 11.00am**. Entry to the talk is free.

Other associated events include a documentary screening - *Questions for Mr Reynolds* at the Century Theatre on Tuesday 22nd July, 6pm. This is a feature length documentary about the artist John Reynolds. It costs \$7 which includes free entry to view the exhibition before the film. And a lively debate on the topic 'Does the Hawke's Bay Need Intellectuals?' at the Century Theatre on Saturday 9th August, 7.30pm. Bookings essential phone 06 835 7781.

John Reynolds will be available for an interview at the HB MAG while installing his work on the afternoon of Tuesday 20th May.

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