



Volume - Speaker Bios

Renee Bevan is a contemporary jeweller who lives and works in Auckland. She exhibits her work both nationally and internationally. As well as working part time at Fingers Gallery she is the jewellery technician at Manukau Institute of Technology School of Visual Arts. Renee has also assisted in the organisation and facilitation of several significant workshops, symposiums and events aimed at the contemporary jewellery community. Renee was recently selected for the prestigious annual international contemporary jewellery exhibition 'Schmuck 2008'. Earlier this year she also undertook her first curatorial project 'Overcast' which she was invited to curate with the support of TheNewDowse as part of the 2008 National Jewellery Showcase event in Wellington.

Caroline Billing is the Director of Inform Contemporary Jewellery in Christchurch, which was founded in 2004 to promote emerging and established contemporary jewellers from New Zealand. With a degree in French and education, Caroline completed a Diploma in Teaching then moved across to work in a contemporary object based gallery promoting craft/object practitioners. She now runs her own gallery with a curatorial focus profiling local and international jewellers, and offering them an opportunity to create new work for exhibitions. In addition to running the gallery she plans to undertake other curatorial projects outside the gallery, with the aim of raising the profile of contemporary jewellery and its makers.

Matt Blomeley is currently the Programme Coordinator at Objectspace in Auckland. He is a graduate of the Bachelor of Design programme at Unitec, where he majored in painting. Matt is interested in writing and curatorship at artist-run and public galleries. Since graduating in 2005 he has initiated and been involved with a variety of contemporary art, craft and design projects for a number of venues and publications including Objectspace, St Paul St Gallery, rm103, Snowwhite, Ramp, Natural Selection, The Physics Room, Artists Alliance, Unitec and Crease. In 2008 Matt curated the Objectspace exhibitions *Best In Show* and *Redefining Agility*.

Karl Chitham is currently the Programme and Education Coordinator at the Whakatane District Museum & Gallery. Prior to this he was the Programme Coordinator at Objectspace in Auckland. He has also had many years experience as an art educator at both secondary and tertiary levels, most recently as lecturer in painting and curatorial practice at Te Toi Whakarei, Te Whare Wanaga o Awanuiarangi. He has been a founding member of a number of artist run initiatives and in 2007 he curated the inaugural contemporary jewellery exhibition *BrandSpankingNew* at the National Jewellery Showcase. He has curated a number of other exhibitions including *Her Majesty's Pleasure (kuinitanga)*, and *The Faux*. He has a Bachelor of Visual Arts (Jewellery) from Manukau Institute of Technology, and a Master of Fine Arts (Sculpture) from Elam School of Fine Arts.

Philip Clarke is the inaugural director of Objectspace, a dedicated and award winning Auckland centre for craft and design centre that opened in 2004. He comes to Objectspace with 20 years cultural sector work experience including the Crafts Council of NZ and most recently Creative NZ. Over that time he has continued to develop his own craft sector knowledge, relationships and personal collection of contemporary crafts.

Esther Lamb makes a range of products for toggle.co.nz which is a website dedicated to exhibiting and selling contemporary craft that she set up with business partner Shelley Simpson in 2006. She makes work under various pseudonyms including *Ask Alice* and *Soft Rocks*. She set the website up after making some embroidered felt bags and wanted to avoid going down the retail path. The search for the most innovative and exciting makers around the county to show on Toggle has lead both Esther and Shelley on a wild path of discovery through the field of New Zealand objects. Prior to starting Toggle Ester Lamb owned a restaurant in Auckland for 7 years called Stella, and she has worked as a lawyer off and on for 6 years. Late last year Esther was a co-curator of the Miniatures exhibition at Objectspace, and she is currently working on other curatorial projects.

Louis Le Vaillant is Curator – Applied Arts, Auckland War Memorial Museum Tamaki Paenga Hira. He has recently completed two new permanent collection-based design and decorative arts galleries, *Landmarks* (International collections); *Encounters* (New Zealand collections) and more recently the *Arts of Asia* gallery that opened in November 2007. After 14 years at the Auckland Museum, Louis is about to move to a new role as Director / Curator of The Johnston Collection in Melbourne, Australia.

Douglas Lloyd Jenkins was once described by Wallpaper magazine as one of the most influential design writers in the Southern Hemisphere but he prefers another epithet – ‘the most quoted man on Trademe.’ He is one of New Zealand’s best-known and most highly respected design and craft writers - specialising in restoring to prominence those overlooked practitioners of the architecture, craft and design who contributed enormously to the creation of contemporary New Zealand culture. He is well known to New Zealanders through his design and architecture columns in a number of magazines and journals and as the face of TVNZ’s The Big Art Trip – one of New Zealand’s the most often repeated arts programmes. He has established a strong international profile, contributing design criticism both locally and overseas. He is a curator of exhibitions and lectures on New Zealand design and architectural history around the world. He won the Montana Book Award for *At Home: A Century of New Zealand Design* in 2005 and in 2008 was awarded MNZM by the Queen for his Contribution to Design. Douglas is currently Director of the Hawke’s Bay Museum & Art Gallery, Napier.

Paul Maseyk completed his formal study of ceramics in 1997 with a Diploma of Ceramic Art and Production from Wanganui UCOL. Maseyk has pursued a number of informal residencies which have seen him spend significant periods working at Driving Creek Potteries in Coromandel with Barry Brickell and in Wanganui with Ross Mitchell-Anyon. Maseyk exhibits regularly and his work is represented in both public and private collections. In 2006 he was awarded a merit in the Norsewear Contemporary Art Awards. He is currently completing a residency at the Archie Bray Foundation for the Ceramic Arts in Montana, USA.

Ross Mitchell-Anyon completed his Teachers College Diploma at Palmerston North Teachers College in 1975. Alongside his own practice he has taught extensively as one of the countries leading studio potters, most recently as part of the Wanganui UCOL Diploma in Ceramic Design and Production. Mitchell-Anyon has exhibited widely in New Zealand and his work can be found in numerous collections both public and private. Mitchell-Anyon lives and works in Wanganui.

Genevieve Packer is a Wellington based textile designer, craft enthusiast and tutor in textiles at Massey University (and a founding member of ‘raiders of the pink umbrella’, a gang of op-shoppers notorious for harassing provincial Presbyterian Support workers in the late 90s). Earlier this year she completed her Masters in Design through Massey’s College of Creative Arts and is now enjoying simply making things for the sake of it. She is continually obsessed with pattern, making stuff, op-shopping, old wallpaper, felt, a little leather and most things pink (but not all).

Richard Parker currently lives and works in Kerikeri. He completed his Teachers Certificate at Christchurch Teachers College in 1967 and has taught at a number of schools, with different levels of students prior to his current position teaching in the Bachelor of Applied Arts programme at Northland Polytechnic. Alongside this Parker has established a distinctive ceramic practice and he has work included in major collections throughout New Zealand.

Justin Paton is one of New Zealand’s leading curators, writers and commentators on contemporary art. He is currently senior curator at Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna O Waiwhetu. Justin came this position in 2007 from his role as curator of contemporary art at the Dunedin Public Art Gallery. From 1999 – 2005 Justin was the editor of New Zealand Journal *Landfall*, is a contributing editor to *Art and Australia*, and is widely published as an art critic with his books selected as finalists in the Montana New Zealand Book Awards on several occasions.

Martin Poppelwell was born in Hawke’s Bay, where he has returned after periods of working and studying elsewhere in New Zealand. He has studied at Otago University and Auckland University’s Elam School of Fine Arts as well as at Wanganui UCOL where he completed a Diploma of Ceramic Art and Production. Poppelwell has established a reputation for his painting, drawing and ceramics. He began exhibiting ceramics regularly in 1993, and his paintings and ceramics feature in many collections. Poppelwell has been the recipient of a number of awards, grants and commissions recognising his ceramic work.

Paul Rayner came to New Zealand from England as a teenager in the 1970s. He majored in painting at Elam in the late 1980s, then in 2004 turned to ceramics - initially exploring the Toby Jug and character mug tradition. His first important show was appropriately titled *Pioneerware* shown in 2006 which featured 10 vessel forms bearing the likenesses, and glaze finishes, of early studio potters such as Briar Gardner, Elizabeth Lissaman and Jovan Rancich. Fond of self-portraiture, Paul also models himself in various guises both real and fictional including Goldilocks, Michael Jackson and Ronnie van Hout. He is currently making figurines inspired by 18th century Staffordshire pottery, which will be shown at Thermostat Gallery, Palmerston North, in December. Having worked at the Sarjeant Gallery from 1998 to 2006 as Senior Curator, Paul now runs Rayner Brothers Gallery in Wanganui along with brother, Mark, and tutors part time at the Fine Arts Department of Wanganui UCOL.

Claire Regnault is the Manager of Concept Development & Research at TheNewDowse in Lower Hutt, where she has worked for almost seven years. She leads the development of the exhibition and collection programmes of both TheNewDowse and the Petone Settlers Museum. Prior to the Dowse, Claire worked in curatorial roles at the Hawke's Bay Museum & Art Gallery, the City Gallery, Wellington and the contemporary arm of the then McDougall Art Gallery - the Art Annex. Her curatorial practice is broad in scope, ranging from social history and contemporary culture to craft, design and fashion.

Jenny Robertson is an academic, educational researcher and a long-time ceramics collector. Widely published in her own field, her contribution to the *Raising Boys* catalogue *The Men and the Boys: Questions of Masculinities in the World of Ceramics* is her debut as a craft/object writer. With her specialist knowledge she raises new lines of questioning and provides a completely fresh voice in the field of craft/object criticism.

Simon Manchester has long had an interest in New Zealand studio pottery and applied arts, and has extensive experience and knowledge of this area of creative practice. He is an active collector, has a background in working as a dealer in the applied arts and popular culture market, forging relationships artists, institutions, and collectors alike. He has had considerable involvement with the secondary market, and currently acts as an Applied Arts Consultant for leading Auction house Dunbar Sloane.

Anna-Marie White has been the Curator at The Suter Art Gallery, Nelson's public art museum for a couple of years. She gets her appreciation for things 'crafty' from her mother, Margaret who used to make Anna-Marie pick moss off fence posts and scrape road kill off the road for her weaving, dyeing, knitting and felting projects. Consequently, Margaret didn't have a problem when Anna-Marie went to art school, first at Elam in Auckland and finishing her last two years at Ilam in Christchurch, majoring in the nearly forgotten media of printmaking. After a failed attempt at being an artist she did a Masters degree in Museum Studies at Massey University while working as a curator at Puke Ariki in her home province of Taranaki before moving to Nelson in 2006.