

# AUCKLAND ART FAIR



## media release.

For immediate release

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### A Fair To Remember – Auckland Art Fair 07

**Auckland (New Zealand)** Auckland has proven once and for all that it loves its art. From the 18 – 20 May, the second Auckland Art Fair, at more than twice the size of the inaugural Fair in 2005, took over the entire Marine Events Centre and attracted nearly 10,000 visitors from all over NZ and Australia.

Visitors spent the weekend enjoying 35 specially created exhibitions by New Zealand's major galleries, including Gow Langsford (Auckland) and Peter McLeavey (Wellington) and Jonathan Smart (Christchurch) and six Australian galleries, including Anna Schwartz (Melbourne) and Martin Browne (Sydney) and Conny Dietzschold (Sydney/Cologne).

"The Fair was brilliantly organised and the quantity and quality of people coming through was superb," said first-time exhibitor John Gow, director of John Leech and Gow Langsford Gallery. "There was a great buzz in the air of people taking in the art and the Fair. It was very impressive and I will definitely be back."

Peter McLeavey, New Zealand's longest standing and arguably most respected art dealer and whose career spans four decades, said: "The Fair was a great opportunity to connect with clients and to meet new ones and I had a madly stimulating time. The Auckland Art Fair team and sponsors did a great job and it was an excellent Fair and we loved it."

Art collectors, curators and aficionados spent an estimated \$NZ3 million at the fair acquiring works for private and public collections in NZ, Australia and the United States. The event also provided art enthusiasts and first-time onlookers alike the opportunity to experience an art fair of an international standard, raising their awareness and understanding of contemporary art.

Jennifer Buckley, co-director of the Fair, said: "The weekend was a real celebration for the whole art community. The 35 exhibitors in this event brought together some of the most exciting contemporary art produced in this region. We were thrilled by the range and calibre of work and delighted by the response it received. We look forward to doing it all again in 2009."

Highlights of the 2007 Auckland Art Fair included the highly successful gala preview, or Vernissage, and a sold-out evening with British art critic, TV presenter and artist Matthew Collings. Nearly 10,000 visitors attended the Fair from 18 - 20 May at the Marine Events Centre at the Viaduct Harbour. [www.aucklandartfair.co.nz](http://www.aucklandartfair.co.nz)

*The Auckland Art Fair is proudly presented by the New Zealand Contemporary Art Trust and gratefully acknowledges the continued support of its founding partners; Auckland City Council, Heart Of The City, Tourism Auckland, and ASB Community Trust. The Trust also thanks its Principal Sponsor Hesketh Henry and major sponsors ANZ Private Bank and Staples Rodway for their generous support in making this event possible.*

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\*High resolution artwork images, artist and gallery interviews are all available upon request.

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