

# aussemblage!

AUCKLAND CITY ART GALLERY 26 MAY – 24 JULY 1994

AN EXHIBITION ORGANISED BY THE AUCKLAND CITY ART GALLERY

SPONSORED BY



ARTS FUNDING COURTESY OF

THE QUEEN ELIZABETH II ARTS COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND.

THE AUSTRALIA / NEW ZEALAND FOUNDATION.

THE AUSTRALIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE.

THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT,

THROUGH THE AUSTRALIA COUNCIL.

WITH SUPPORT FROM

J. WATTIE FOODS LTD

FOODTOWN INSTORE BAKERIES

SAATCHI & SAATCHI ADVERTISING

STRATFORD PRODUCTIONS

KIWI PACKAGING LTD

ABCAR WRECKERS

GILTRAP MOTORS LTD

SELECON NZ LTD

## everyday objects transformed

Bottles, beer cans, matchboxes, pantihose, carbonettes, bread, cardboard boxes, windscreen glass and dolls' eyes are just some of the materials used in the 50 sculptures by 26 artists in this Australian exhibition. A 20th century art form, assemblage is sculpture composed of pre-formed objects. The most famous example is Picasso's *Bull's head*, the poetic arrangement of the handlebars and seat of a bicycle. Thus recycled and placed out of context, everyday objects take on new significance. Adam Boyd builds elegant formal structures from tins of canned food; Colin Duncan uses hundreds of cardboard boxes to transform a simple room into an eerily lit grotto; and Mikala Dwyer makes architectural assemblages from loaves of bread.

In the hands of artists, commonplace and banal items are infused with irony, wit, satire, weirdness and absurdity. In the tradition of dada and surrealist subversion, many of these assemblages are characterised by bizarre juxtapositions – for example, Penelope Lee's river stones fitted with zip fasteners or Chris Hodges' boomerangs sheathed in strips of aluminium beer cans.

**Aussemblage** is a diverse collection of some of the most innovative sculpture produced in Australia in the last five years. It places the work of established artists like Madonna Staunton and Rosalie Gascoigne alongside that of younger artists like Kathy Temin, Adam Boyd and Hany Armanious.

Andrew Bogle, curator of **Aussemblage**, says, "Once artists painted landscapes because that was their environment. Today our environment is extensively modified by the products we make: cars, billboards, road signs, and consumer goods. Assemblage artists avail themselves of this vast mine of manufactured objects to reclaim, in their personal way, control of that environment, to shape it in their own image."

Some of the works in **Aussemblage** are ephemeral. After the exhibition, the bottles, boxes and foodstuffs will be recycled, restored to the supermarket shelves, or – in the case of Mikala Dwyer's bread archway – fed to the pigs! Others are reconstituted here, with the artist's consent, from similar or identical products to those used in the originals.

Assemblage artists eschew traditional sculpture materials such as bronze, wood and marble for objects that are mass-produced and commonplace. Rosalie Gascoigne, Neil Roberts and Giuseppe Romeo use materials salvaged from junk heaps or second-hand stores. The processes that are involved in making a bottle or a tin can or a book are in themselves the end result of a long train of creative decisions. By using these products as building blocks, assemblage artists take them one step further, giving them a new and poetic life far beyond their original purpose.

**Hany Armanious** (born 1962) Egypt/Australia  
*Ladybug (Pornament)* 1993  
plastic bags with plastic  
dimensions variable  
Courtesy of Sarah Cottier Gallery, Sydney

**Gordon Bennett** (born 1955) Australia  
*Self-portrait (Vessel)* 1992  
mixed media  
drawers 83 x 61 x 5 cm  
painting 100 x 100 cm  
Courtesy of Bellas Gallery, Brisbane  
and Sutton Gallery, Melbourne

**Adam Boyd** (born 1962) Australia  
*(Safeway) Floriade* 1994  
canned fruit  
maximum dimension 1300 cm  
Courtesy of Tolarno Gallery, Melbourne  
Supported by J. Wattie Foods Ltd  
and the Regent Auckland Hotel

*Snakey arrested* 1994  
canned food  
max dimension 200 cm  
Courtesy of Tolarno Gallery, Melbourne  
Supported by H. J. Heinz Co. NZ Ltd  
and the Regent Auckland Hotel

**Eugene Carchesio** (born 1960) Australia  
*Works from the Museum of Silence  
(Dept. of 100 poems)* 1988-94  
matchboxes, cardboard and paper  
Courtesy of Bellas Gallery, Brisbane,  
Sutton Gallery, Melbourne and Victor Meertens

*Open questions for Colin McCahon* 1994  
matchboxes, cardboard and paper  
dimensions variable  
Courtesy of Bellas Gallery, Brisbane  
and Sutton Gallery, Melbourne

**Colin Duncan** (born 1958) Australia  
*Tome* 1994  
cardboard, paper, tape, electric lights  
dimensions variable  
Courtesy of the artist  
Supported by Kiwi Packaging Ltd  
and the Regent Auckland Hotel

**Mikala Dwyer** (born 1959) Australia  
*Leavened* 1989-94  
bread loaves and plywood  
dimensions variable  
Courtesy of Sarah Cottier Gallery, Sydney  
Supported by Foodtown Instore Bakeries  
and the Regent Auckland Hotel

*Untitled* 1993  
pantihose, plastic and air  
maximum dimension approx. 100 cm  
Courtesy of Sarah Cottier Gallery, Sydney

*Untitled* 1993  
pantihose, vinyl and air  
maximum dimension approx. 300 cm  
Courtesy of Sarah Cottier Gallery, Sydney

**Rosalie Gascoigne** (born 1917) New Zealand/  
Australia  
*Skewbald* 1994  
enamel jugs, bowls, wooden boxes, linoleum, masonite  
152 x 427 x 122 cm  
Courtesy of Roslyn Oxley 9 Gallery, Sydney

*Big yellow* 1988  
reflective road signs  
171.5 x 180 cm  
The Chartwell Collection, Waikato Museum  
of Art and History  
Te Whare Taonga o Waikato, Hamilton

**Richard Goodwin** (born 1953) Australia  
*Worried truss for a nervous person* 1992  
piano parts, wire, steel  
200 x 450 x 90 cm  
Auckland City Art Gallery collection  
purchased 1992

*Third World Kline* 1992  
tricycle, cane, clothing  
170 x 290 x 90 cm  
Courtesy of Annandale Galleries, Sydney

**Chris Hodges** (born 1954) Australia  
*The hunter* 1994  
printed aluminium on wood  
maximum dimension 240 cm  
Courtesy of Utopia Art, Sydney

*Twelve tin can boomerangs* 1994  
printed aluminium on wood  
various dimensions  
Courtesy of Utopia Art, Sydney

**Ian Howard** (born 1947) Australia  
*Composites* 1992-1994  
mixed media with silver and bronze  
maximum dimension 300 cm  
Courtesy of Watters Gallery, Sydney

**David Jensz** (born 1951) Australia  
*Convolution* 1993  
steel, carbonettes, epoxy resin  
90 x 160 x 190 cm  
Courtesy of Luba Bilu Gallery, Melbourne

**Penelope Lee** (born 1961) Australia  
*Hardcore* 1990-93  
rocks, zip fasteners and graphite  
dimensions variable  
Courtesy of the artist

**Ewen McDonald** (born 1952) New Zealand/Australia  
*Duck Egg Blue*  
*McDonald Duck Project* 1989-94  
stuffed ducklings, ceramic, plastic, mixed media  
dimensions variable  
Courtesy of the artist

**John Nixon** (born 1949) Australia  
*Blue Rider* 1994  
piano, enamel on masonite panels  
dimensions variable  
Courtesy of Sarah Cottier Gallery, Sydney

**Robert Owen** (born 1937) Australia  
*Seeds of destruction* 1988-89  
steel, wood, glass crystal  
26 x 117 x 101.5 cm  
Courtesy of Anna Schwartz Gallery, Melbourne

*Trace of a silent bell #4* 1994  
windscreen glass, bronze Tibetan bowl, light  
dimensions variable  
Courtesy of Anna Schwartz Gallery, Melbourne

**Louise Paramor** (born 1964) Australia  
*Stair* 1994  
glass bottles  
210 x 70 x 150 cm  
Courtesy Gallery Rhumbarallas, Melbourne  
Supported by Montana Wines Ltd  
and the Regent Auckland Hotel

*Tale bearer* 1994  
glass bottles and ribbon  
170 x 32 x 32 cm  
Courtesy Gallery Rhumbarallas, Melbourne  
Supported by Montana Wines Ltd  
and the Regent Auckland Hotel

*Siphon* 1994  
glass bottles and sand  
dimensions variable  
Courtesy Gallery Rhumbarallas, Melbourne  
Supported by Montana Wines Ltd  
and the Regent Auckland Hotel

**Scott Redford** (born 1962) Australia  
*Anti-matter* 1991  
enamel, tumofil and objects on board  
179 x 182 cm  
Courtesy of Mori Gallery, Sydney

**Tom Risley** (born 1947) Australia  
*Still-life with burnt sienna vase* 1989  
vinyl, wood, iron, fibreglass, epoxy resin, silicon  
dimensions variable  
Auckland City Art Gallery collection, purchased 1989

**Luke Roberts** (born 1952) Australia  
*Poodle fetish (Virus)* 1991-93  
mixed media  
approximate height 75 cm  
Courtesy of Sutton Gallery, Melbourne

*Poodle fetish (Vanitas)* 1991-93  
mixed media  
approximate height 75 cm  
Courtesy of Sutton Gallery, Melbourne  
and Bellas Gallery, Brisbane

*Poodle fetish (Atomic)* 1991-93  
mixed media  
approximate height 75 cm  
Courtesy of Sutton Gallery, Melbourne  
and Bellas Gallery, Brisbane

*Poodle fetish (Viscera)* 1991-93  
mixed media  
approximate height 75cm  
Courtesy of Sutton Gallery, Melbourne  
and Bellas Gallery, Brisbane

**Neil Roberts** (born 1954) Australia  
*Aulauxomancy* 1993-94  
metal objects  
dimensions variable  
Courtesy of Kunst, Sydney  
and Luba Bilu Gallery, Melbourne

*Things in a state of belonging* 1993  
metal objects  
119 x 122 x 75 cm  
Courtesy of Kunst, Sydney  
and Luba Bilu Gallery, Melbourne

**Giuseppe Romeo** (born 1958) Australia  
*Table* 1994  
polychromed books painted in bitumen, enamel  
and various mixed media  
220 x 110 x 130 cm  
Courtesy of Luba Bilu Gallery, Melbourne

*Smoko still life* 1994  
sack barrow, assorted objects and polychromed  
books painted in bitumen and enamel  
60 x 60 x 120 cm  
Courtesy of Luba Bilu Gallery, Melbourne

*The rape of Europa* 1994  
polychromed books, bitumen, enamel, mixed media  
1300 x 600 x 500  
Courtesy of Luba Bilu Gallery, Melbourne

**Madonna Staunton** (born 1938) Australia  
*Assemblage with piano interior* 1994  
mixed media  
25 x 85 x 42 cm  
Courtesy of Bellas Gallery, Brisbane  
and Sutton Gallery, Melbourne

**Kathy Temin** (born 1968) Australia  
*The Duck-Rabbit problem* 1991  
synthetic fur, polystyrene, enamel, stuffing, masonite  
85 x 120 x 184 cm  
Courtesy of Roslyn Oxley 9 Gallery, Sydney  
Supported by the Regent Auckland Hotel

*Rectangular problem I* 1992  
synthetic fur and mixed media on masonite  
and plywood  
430 x 180 cm  
Courtesy of Anna Schwartz Gallery, Melbourne  
Supported by the Regent Auckland Hotel

*White problem II* 1993  
synthetic fur, masonite and plywood (nine parts)  
63 x 63 cm, each part  
Courtesy of Roslyn Oxley 9 Gallery, Sydney  
Supported by the Regent Auckland Hotel

**Ken Unsworth** (born 1931) Australia  
*Soundings* 1990-91  
wood, plaster, plastic, sand, acrylic sheet, pump  
dimensions variable  
Auckland City Art Gallery collection, purchased 1993

*Rapture* 1992  
fired porcelain, latex and five steel vices  
dimensions variable  
Courtesy of Roslyn Oxley 9 Gallery, Sydney

**Hossein Valamanesh** (born 1949) Iran/Australia  
*Birch song cycle* 1991  
wood, birch bark, speakers and sound  
dimensions variable  
Courtesy of Luba Bilu Gallery, Melbourne  
Supported by the Regent Auckland Hotel

*Day by day* 1991  
mixed media and shoes  
52.8 x 48 x 18.1 cm  
Courtesy of Luba Bilu Gallery, Melbourne  
Supported by the Regent Auckland Hotel

**Andrew Wright-Smith** (born 1956) Australia  
*Bastone Napoli* 1993  
cast aluminium  
51.5 x 3.0 x 15.0 cm  
Courtesy of Annandale Gallery, Sydney

*Pozzuoli* 1993  
cast aluminium  
51.5 x 3.0 x 15.0 cm  
Courtesy of Annandale Gallery, Sydney

*Bastone contemporanea* 1993  
cast aluminium  
51.5 x 3.0 x 15.0 cm  
Courtesy of Annandale Gallery, Sydney

*Bombay tattoo* 1992  
cast aluminium and plaster on wooden pedestal  
114 x 92 x 51 cm  
Auckland City Art Gallery collection, purchased 1992

## Auckland City Art Gallery

<i>Director</i>	Christopher Johnstone
<i>Senior Curator of International Art</i>	Andrew Bogle
<i>Marketing &amp; Development Manager</i>	Beth Harman
<i>Marketing &amp; Development Assistant</i>	Jennifer Balle
<i>Registrar</i>	Amanda Gibbs
<i>Programme Co-ordinator</i>	Catherine Lomas
<i>Design</i>	Chad Taylor
<i>Senior Curator, Education &amp; Community Liaison</i>	Roger Taberner
<i>Photography</i>	John McIver
	Jennifer French
<i>Word processing</i>	Gail Hedges
<i>Technicians</i>	Bill Mack
	John Robertson
	Rod McLeod
	Jeremy Dart
	Mei Hill