

Life at home and housing in Aotearoa: A new Chartwell exhibition explores 'home'



Image credits: clockwise from top left

Fiona Connor
Wallworks (Trevor Vickers), installation view MUMA 2014, photo Andrew Curtis

Justene Williams
Communion, 2018, Chartwell Collection, Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki, purchased 2018

Paul Cullen
Science (pool complex), 1994–95, Chartwell Collection Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki, gift of the artist, 1995

Tim Wagg
Youth Portrait, 2022 (still), Commissioned by Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki, 2022

Matt Calderwood
Untitled, 2016, Chartwell Collection, Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki, purchased 2016, photo: Sam Hartnett

Walls to Live Beside, Rooms to Own is a response to our changed relationship to life at home and the current housing pressures facing us in Aotearoa New Zealand. Free to enter, the exhibition opens at Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki on Saturday 3 September.

Featuring works from the Chartwell Collection by 38 New Zealand, Australian and other international artists, the show examines artistic responses and relationships to domestic architecture from the 1970s to today and how artists have worked with the materials and psychology of 'home'.

The exhibition introduces two new contemporary artworks: one by Los Angeles-based New Zealand artist Fiona Connor and another by emerging New Zealand artist Tim Wagg. Each has been specially commissioned by the Gallery for the exhibition.

Fiona Connor's *Walls #1–#6 and #8 (featuring Rob Gardiner)* recreates seven interior walls from around Tāmaki Makarau Auckland and the Waikato on which hang artworks by founder of the Chartwell Trust, Rob Gardiner. Tim Wagg's work is a video portrait of a young real estate agent set against a backdrop of the commercialised landscape of central Auckland.

Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki Director Kirsten Lacy sees the show as a way to honour the Chartwell Trust's significant legacy and support of the local art community, and to reflect the Gallery's commitment to engaging New Zealand artists.

'The new Chartwell Show couldn't be more timely in its consideration of the way we occupy our interior spaces and think about home life,' she says. 'With this exhibition, we celebrate the activities of the Chartwell Trust and as a major supporter of artists from around Aotearoa and across Australasia.

'The Gallery has an important role to play in showcasing the work of local artists, whether internationally successful or early in their careers. We're delighted to support new works by artists Fiona Connor and Tim Wagg.'

Across the show, audiences will encounter a range of artistic approaches from the use of scaffolding and grids to sculptural walls, domestic furniture and home furnishings, and reflections on the psychological characteristics of interior space and the outdoors.

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Auckland Art Gallery's Senior Curator, Global Contemporary Art, Natasha Conland says the theme of this exhibition reflects how the relationship between art and the home has changed since the Chartwell Collection was first established in 1974.

'When the Collection was established, social and domestic attitudes of the post-war period were rapidly changing. Artists in Aotearoa were making use of new second-hand marketplaces and recycled domestic wares, both in their practice and for inspiration,' she says.

'Since then, attitudes to the home have changed. However, none of these changes has been so visible or acute as those we are experiencing now: a broad-scale housing crisis coupled with the effects of Covid-19 lockdowns, working-from-home culture and ongoing building supply issues.

'*Walls to Live Beside, Rooms to Own* asks audiences to reflect on the evolving relationship with art and home life; sharpening our attention to the material and social conditions of our housing environment.'

Walls to Live Beside, Rooms to Own is supported by the Chartwell Trust.

The *Walls to Live Beside, Rooms to Own* exhibition publication will be available for purchase at Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki's shop from the exhibition opening.

Exhibition details

Walls to Live Beside, Rooms to Own

When:

Saturday 3 September 2022 – Saturday 26 March 2023
10am – 5pm daily

Where:

Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki
Cnr Kitchener and Wellesley Streets
Auckland, New Zealand

Admission:

Free entry

Artists featured in *Walls to Live Beside, Rooms to Own*

Anoushka Akel (NZ, 1977) / Hany Armanious (Aus 1962) / Eve Armstrong (NZ 1978) / Dan Arps (NZ 1976) / Stephen Bambury (NZ 1951) / Andrew Barber (NZ 1978) / Andrew Beck (NZ 1987) / Ruth Buchanan (NZ, Te Āti Awa 1980) / Matt Calderwood (IE 1975) / Ben Cauchi (NZ 1974) / Derrick Cherrie (NZ 1960) / Fiona Connor (NZ 1981) / Martin Creed (SCT 1968) / Paul Cullen (NZ 1949–2017) / Don Driver (NZ 1930–2011) / Oscar Enberg (NZ 1988) / Alicia Frankovich (NZ 1980) / Alberto Garcia-Alvarez (ESP/NZ 1928) / Starlie Geikie (AU 1975) / Diena Georgetti (AU 1966) / Peter Hawkesby (NZ 1950) / Mary Heilmann (US 1940) / Nikau Hindin (NZ / Te Rarawa, Ngāpuhi, Ngāi Tūpoto 1992) / Julian Hooper (NZ/TONG 1966) / Imi Knoebel (DE 1940) / Allan McDonald (NZ 1951) / Daniel Malone (NZ 1970) / Mick Namerari Tjapaltjarri (AU/ Pintupi 1926–1998) / Kate Newby (NZ 1979) / Suji Park (KOR/NZ 1985) / Oliver Perkins (NZ 1979) / Shona Rapira-Davies (NZ/ Ngātiwai, Ngāpuhi 1951) / Peter Robinson (NZ/ Kāi Tahu / 1966) / Isobel Thom (NZ 1965) / Geoff Thornley (NZ 1942) / Tim Wagg (NZ 1991) / John Ward Knox (NZ 1984) / Justene Williams (AU 1970)

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Notes to the editor**The Chartwell Collection**

Established in 1974 by the Chartwell Trust, the Chartwell Collection of New Zealand, Australian and other international art is held on long-term loan by Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki and its works are regularly seen throughout the Gallery's collection exhibitions. Acquisition and financial support for the development of art has occurred over 40 years of activity through the insight, enthusiasm and diligence of trustee Rob Gardiner CNZM and now daughters Sue and Karen Gardiner. Previously held in Hamilton, responsibility for the Chartwell Collection moved to Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki in 1997 so that the Collection could fulfil its objective of bringing the pleasures and challenges of contemporary art to a larger audience.

**For more information, high-res images and
interview requests contact:**

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