

MEDIA RELEASE

10 November 2009



Media enquiries: Stasi Turnbull
anastasia.turnbull@wmt.org.nz
ph: 04 801 4140, 021 400 810

A Feast For The Senses

City Gallery Wellington announces its Festival Season

City Gallery Wellington launches its Festival Season with three exhibitions to excite the senses. Sound, colour and form are all celebrated in the work of three leading artists during the free Festival Season, which runs February 20 to 16 May 2010. The Festival Season is proudly supported by ANZ.

New Zealand's first opportunity to experience a world-renowned sound installation artist, Wellington's chance to see a large-scale survey on one of our foremost figurative painters, and a major showing one of New Zealand's most revered abstractionists are City Gallery Wellington's contribution to the New Zealand International Arts Festival 2010.

Gallery Director Paula Savage is thrilled to be able to offer such a variety of experiences to Gallery visitors:

"Yayoi Kusama's *Mirrored Years* has engaged a remarkably wide audience, from traditional gallery visitors to those who have never been inside a gallery before. Our Festival Season exhibitions provide such a mix of artforms – from music to intense colour to delicate form and line – that we are sure people will love this season just as much. We are also delighted that this season will be free entry, ensuring many repeat visits to experience all three exhibitions."

The *Forty-Part Motet* (2001) by Canadian artist Janet Cardiff is an immersive sculpturally-conceived sound piece, in which forty separately-recorded voices are played back through forty speakers. This evocative installation uses recordings of the Salisbury Cathedral choir singing *Spem in Alium Nunquam Habui* (1573) by Thomas Tallis, one of England's most influential Renaissance composers.

S raphine Pick's original and imaginative paintings have made her one of New Zealand's most highly regarded painters. From the spectral dresses, leaky baths and teetering suitcases of the 1990s to the psychologically-charged dreamscapes of more recent years, this large-scale survey, curated by Felicity Milburn of Christchurch Art Gallery, will bring together over seventy works made between 1994 and 2009 by this Wellington-based artist.

"You want a landscape? Take a drive in the country." Milan Mrkusich's blunt piece of advice to *Woman's Weekly* readers in 1969 was made in the face of intense hostility towards abstract art. Forty years later, the exhibition *Trans-form* brings Mrkusich's now highly revered abstract painting to City Gallery Wellington. Curated by Alan Wright and Ed Hanfling, this exhibition provides a unique opportunity to witness Mrkusich's potent use of symbolic form, line and colour over four decades of painting.

A strong programme of public events will support the exhibitions, providing visitors with a deeper understanding of the works on show.

The *Forty Part Motet* is courtesy of the artist, Janet Cardiff. Originally produced by Field Art Projects with the Arts Council of England, Canada House, the Salisbury Festival and Salisbury Cathedral Choir, BALTIC Gateshead, The New Art Gallery Walsall, and the NOW Festival Nottingham.

S raphine Pick: *Tell Me More* is a Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu touring exhibition. Touring sponsor Ernst & Young.

Trans-form: The Abstract Art of Milan Mrkusich is a Gus Fisher Gallery exhibition, in partnership with City Gallery Wellington.

The Festival Season:

Janet Cardiff, Milan Mrkusich, Seraphine Pick

20 February – 16 May 2010

Free Entry

City Gallery Wellington

Civic Square, Wellington

Ph: 04 801 3021, citygallery@wmt.org.nz www.citygallery.org.nz



Festival Season Principal Sponsor:

City Gallery Wellington is managed by the Wellington Museums Trust with major funding support from Wellington City Council.



Images for Media use:

The following images are available for media use. Please email anastasia.turnbull@wmt.org.nz for publication quality versions.

Images used must be credited as below.

Images must not be cropped or altered in any way.



Janet Cardiff
The Forty-Part Motet, 2001
Installation view, Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin
Photo: Jens Ziehe
Courtesy the artists, Galerie Barbara Weiss, Berlin
and Luhring Augustine, New York



Milan Mrkusich
Theme and Counter Theme, 1966
In the collection of The Suter Gallery Te Aratoi o
Whakatu, Nelson



Séraphine Pick
Burning the Furniture, 2007
Private collection. Reproduced courtesy of the artist.