



NEW ZEALAND MUSEUM AWARDS

NZ Museum Awards 2012 Winners Announced

19 April 2012

EMBARGOED UNTIL 10PM

The biggest new art museum development of the past year was the biggest winner at the 2012 New Zealand Museum Awards celebration. The judges were impressed that Auckland Art Gallery, "is a stand-out redevelopment, well-realised and already making a huge impact on art audiences within and visiting Auckland".

Christchurch Art Gallery was named twice – for innovation and use of technology in its *MyGallery* online project and as joint winner of the Art and Design Exhibition category for *De-Building*. Dunedin Public Art Gallery shared this exhibition prize with *Still Life – The Art of Anatomy*.

Also named twice was Waikato Museum. The judges described *Red, Yellow and (All) Black* as, "by far and away the best of the 2011 rugby exhibitions". The Waikato exhibition team received special recognition for addressing sustainability by developing an innovative temporary wall fabrication system to reduce wastage of exhibition materials.

Canterbury Museum received commendation for its earthquake exhibition, *Canterbury Quakes*, for "telling such an immediate story ... and bringing it all together for the first anniversary of the devastating February 2010 earthquake."



The Director and staff of the Air Force Museum in Christchurch received special recognition as a team for their work in supporting their colleagues in the Canterbury museum community in the aftermath of the quakes. They helped retrieve at-risk collections, helped staff at other museums to move collections, and provided a temporary home to various displaced organisations. Their commitment will continue as they have re-worked their major development plans to create much-needed temporary storage space and conservation facilities to support the recovery of earthquake-affected museums in the area.

"We are delighted to be able to recognise and celebrate these outstanding achievements in our museums and galleries, and we are grateful for the support of major sponsors Story Inc, in helping us to acknowledge the fantastic work being done in these difficult times," says Phillipa Tocker, Executive Director of Museums Aotearoa.

The award judges, Jock Phillips, Heather Galbraith, Greg McManus and Jane Legget, said that the entries exercised and impressed them. "We had a hard job selecting from the record number of entries, and a record 15 finalists. "The panel had some robust debate about which entries were most deserving", says Phillipa Tocker. "All the entries had required organisations to stretch and develop in some way, and we can all learn from these examples."

The New Zealand Museum Awards dinner at City Gallery Wellington is part of Museums Aotearoa's MA12 conference, *Collaboration in Practice*. The awards programme is proudly sponsored by Story Inc, New Zealand's leading creator of visitor experiences.

New Zealand Museum Awards 2012 Winners and Citations

Project Achievement Award: Innovation and Use of Technology

Winner:

Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu for *MyGallery*

"*MyGallery* is an engaging, layered way of mining the collection for a multitude of purposes and audiences – from curators to school students. This on-line project was an ideal use of resources during forced closure, enabling the gallery to provide continuing audience and community engagement. *MyGallery* is also playful, not taking itself too seriously, and allowing for the unexpected to happen."

Judges award for sustainability:

Waikato Museum for temporary exhibition wall fabrication system

"For recognising the importance of making the best use of resources, re-using materials, and reducing waste without compromising flexibility and usability."

Project Achievement Award: Exhibition Excellence – Art & Design

Joint Winner

Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu for *De-Building*

"A creative and beautifully produced exhibition, *De-Building* was timely and conceptually strong. In plan prior to the September 2010 earthquake, it then responded to it, becoming both a more poignant and riskier proposition. *De-Building* incorporated internationally important artists and new commissions and offered a rich spatial experience. After the February 2011 earthquake cut the exhibition short, the accompanying high quality publication has given it a longer shelf life."

Joint Winner

Dunedin Public Art Gallery for *Still Life: The Art of Anatomy*

"*Still Life* brings together two traditions and two long-established institutions – Dunedin Public Art Gallery and Otago University's Medical School. The exhibition pays due respect to both, offering a clever interplay of science and art. It is intriguing, luscious, instructive and thoughtful, with excellent content, beautifully realised."

Project Achievement Award: Exhibition Excellence – Social History

Highly Commended:

Canterbury Museum for *Canterbury Quakes*

"*Canterbury Quakes* has a big story to tell, and is loaded with highly symbolic objects as well as sensitivity. Telling such an immediate story, taking into account the sensibilities of 'shell-shocked' local visitors and bringing it all together for the first anniversary of the devastating February 2010 earthquake was a challenge which Canterbury Museum has met successfully. There is an appropriately strong educational component and planning for a touring version during exhibition development means that this highly charged topic can be shared with the rest of the country."

Winner:

Waikato Museum for *Red, Yellow, (All) Black*

"Waikato Museum took a subject that was everywhere in 2011, and turned its rugby theme into a really fresh exhibition, which included information and context for a wide range of audiences. There were sections on how ordinary people were involved with rugby, the science of rugby, analysis of a pro player's routine, of interest for people who knew nothing about rugby and enthusiasts alike. A variety of exhibition techniques included videos of key rugby moments, 'locker room' insights, and good physical interactive elements such as smells and low-tech matching of socks to regions made this really visitor-focussed. Red, Yellow and (All) Black was by far and away the best of the 2011 rugby exhibitions!"

Project Achievement Award: Museum or Gallery Development

Winner:

Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki for gallery redevelopment

"A stand-out redevelopment, well-realised and highly and already making a huge impact on art audiences within and visiting Auckland. This is a world class art museum that values both its architectural heritage and contemporary opportunities, where old and new flow together and engage with the city and park contexts. The Auckland Art Gallery worked with the critical process to achieve a highly considered result. It is leading by example in its building and programming – features including gold star accessibility, sustainable timber features, artists commissions integrated with design and strong curatorial outcomes – all superbly realised."

For more information about the awards, contact:

Phillipa Tocker

(64 4) 499 1313 or (64) 21 606 135

phillipa.tocker@museumsaotearoa.org.nz

MA12 conference programme, keynotes and events at

www.museumsaotearoa.org.nz

New Zealand Museum Awards 2012 Finalists

see 3 April media release:

http://www.museumsaotearoa.org.nz/Site/activities/News/Museum_Aotearoa_News.aspx

Finalist	Project
Aratoi	exhibition: <i>Wairarapa Moana</i>
Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki	project: gallery redevelopment
Auckland War Memorial Museum	project: AQUA mobile trail
Canterbury Museum	exhibition: <i>Canterbury Quakes</i>
Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu	online project: MyGallery
Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu	exhibition: <i>De-Building</i>
Dunedin Public Art Gallery	exhibition: <i>Still Life: The Art of Anatomy</i>
Luit Bieringa	exhibition: <i>Old School New School</i>
Museum of Transport and Technology	project: Aviation Display Hall development
Museum of Wellington City & Sea	exhibition: <i>Death and Diversity</i>
New Zealand Historic Places Trust	project: Pompallier Mission & Fyffe House interpretation
Te Manawa Museums Trust	project: Te Manawa development
Waikato Museum	project: temporary exhibition wall fabrication system
Waikato Museum	exhibition: <i>Red, Yellow, (All) Black</i>
Whangarei Art Museum Te Manawa Toi	project: Whangarei Art Museum Relocation/Rebrand

For more information about the awards, contact:

Phillipa Tocker

(64 4) 499 1313 or (64) 21 606 135

phillipa.tocker@museumsaotearoa.org.nz

MA12 conference programme, keynotes and events at

www.museumsaotearoa.org.nz