New Women Artists

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An exhibition curated by Jenny Neligan of Bowen Galleries, Wellington,
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INTRODUCTION

We drudged our way through the seventies and now thanks to women those boring years are over. We present through ''New Women Artists'' the spirit, colour and energy of the eighties.

I do not think women are discriminated against in the visual arts today. They are producing the goods and provided the goods are of quality then the work gets through. There are many women working in the visual arts here as critics, in art schools and in galleries, all with as much ability as men have ever displayed. All the women in this exhibition see themselves as artists — not political artists, not feminist artists or any other label of artist but simply as artists.

The spirit of art matters. I wanted to include artists in this exhibition whose work is charged with soul and energy, work that concerns all of us. I based my selection of artists on the product I responded to emotionally. I was looking for work that reflected the eighties, not to define any style but to convey an impression of NOW, as the film *Diva* does and the magazine *Metro* (regardless of what *Metro* stands for, when you pick it up you know it's Auckland and you know it's eighties). Simply too, I wanted to include beauty. We all respond to the power of beauty.

The works included are a personal voice — the voice of the artist. These artists do not believe they are going to change the world through their work but by admitting their fears, angers, hurt and their loves they are allowing others to admit to these too. On a personal level they are confronting themselves through their work — the dramas of everyday life, the fears and frustrations, the searching for identities (especially those who are not living in the country they were born in) and their own sexuality. These artists are also balancing outer and inner spaces and exploring light, paint and shape.

Technical competence is evident. For all the artists the respect and love they have for the materials they use produce stunning results. The works are upfront and bold, full of myth and magic — the immediate fears of poverty, unemployment and nuclear war, and the resulting pain and anger provide the motivation leading to such powerful works.

If the works vary enormously in style then the common factor is the women themselves — their attitudes, ideals, loves and fears, their competence and commitment.

A famous expatriate said ''a work of art should be so dangerous that if you're not looking the right way it'll take your head off.'' I don't want to see severed heads, but I hope this exhibition will knock your eyes out.

Jenny Neligan
May 1984

LEONIE ARNOLD

Born in Wellington, in 1945. Leonie received her formal art training at Wellington Polytech's School of Design in 1964 and again in 1977. She lives and works on Waiheke Island. She has had one-woman exhibitions at Peter Webb Gallery and Denis Cohn Gallery in Auckland, and has taken part in many group shows as a guest artist in both public and dealer galleries.

1 **Five heads,** 1984
Terracotta with earthenware glazes, 250 x 165 x 230
$150 each

INGRID BANWELL

Born in 1957 at Taupo. Ingrid's secondary education was in Mexico City, Wellington and at the United Nations International School in New York. She studied art at Auckland University graduating M.F.A. with First Class Honours in 1981. Ingrid has participated in many group shows since her first in New York in 1974, mainly in Auckland. One-woman shows have been at One Era Gallery (1981), Auckland University Fine Arts Library (1981) and Denis Cohn Gallery (1983), in Auckland.

2 **Border management,** 1984
oil and enamel on customwood, 2100 x 1800 x 100
$950

3 **A rambling climber,** 1984
oil and enamel on customwood, 1720 x 2000 x 70
$950

4 **Space invader,** 1984
oil and enamel on customwood, 1800 x 1800 x 70
$950

HEATHER BUSCH

Heather studied art formally at the University of Canterbury, 1972-1975, graduating Dip F.A. in sculpture. From 1976 to 1979 she was employed in the stained glass field, executing a commission for the Wellington Teachers College Council in 1979. Meanwhile she exhibited sculpture at Van Helden's Gallery, Wellington in 1976, and had a piece accepted for the Hansell's Sculpture Competition. Since 1980 she has been painting full-time, and has exhibited works in most group shows at the N.Z. Academy of Fine Arts in Wellington. The Galerie Legard has hosted two one-woman shows for her, in 1982 and 1984.

5 **Holding,** 1980
oil on board, 600 x 780
N.F.S.

6 **The swing (triptych),** 1983
oil on board, 760 x 400, 760 x 800, 760 x 400
$2,500

7 **The hostage,** 1982
oil on board, 1203 x 882
$2,000

8 **Father,** 1983
oil on board, 500 x 400
N.F.S.

DEBRA BUSTIN

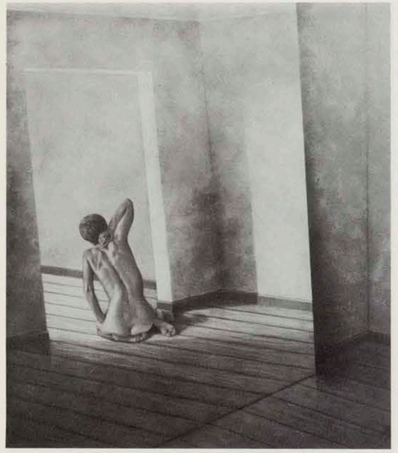
Debra Bustin, detail from an installation at the Adelaide Festival Centre Gallery, 1984.

Born in 1957, Debra is a Wellington resident. Her first one-woman show was in that city in 1979. Since then she has had work in several group shows and further one-woman shows have been in 1981 at the Bowen Galleries, in 1983 at Robert McDougall Art Gallery and again at the Bowen Galleries in 1984. Debra has exhibited at Anzart in Tasmania, 1983, and at the Steve Mori Gallery, Sydney. In 1984 she was a guest artist at the Adelaide Festival.

In 1982, the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery's exhibition 'New Artists/New Art' included a large multiple environment by Debra. The Gallery subsequently purchased the larger part for its collection; the Sarjeant Gallery also purchased a piece.

9 **Untitled installation,** 1984
canvas, wood, enamel, wire, paper etc, approximately 3000 x 5200 x 600
$1000

NANCY DE FREITAS



Nancy De Freitas, Mirrored room-doorway, 1983-1984.

Born in 1949, Trinidad. Nancy received her education in Trinidad, England and Canada, graduating from the Ontario College of Art, Toronto, in Communication and Design. She then trained as a teacher in Brisbane, Australia, in 1974-75, while lecturing at the College of Art. Since coming to New Zealand in 1979 she has worked as a tutor and lecturer at Auckland University School of Fine Arts and the Auckland Technical Institute. In 1980 she also obtained the degree of M.F.A. from Auckland University. In both Australia and New Zealand, Nancy has involved herself widely in promotion of the arts in the community.

Nancy has participated in many group exhibitions in Canada and Australia. In New Zealand she has exhibited work in group shows at the Denis Cohn Gallery, the University of Auckland, the Rotorua Art Gallery, the Auckland Society of Arts, the Elva Bett Gallery, the New Zealand Academy of Fine Arts and the Sarjeant Gallery. She has work in the Collections of Griffith University, Queensland, the University of Queensland itself and the Rotorua City Art Gallery.

10 **Thin air breather III,** 1982
acrylic on cotton duck, 1320 x 1150
$800

11 **Mirrored room — doorway,** 1983/84
acrylic on cotton duck, 1320 x 1150
$800

12 **Passage on a landing,** 1983/84
acrylic on cotton duck, 1320 x 1150
$800

13 **Paper thin and pierced, Pierced Paper series III,** 1983
acrylic and dry pigment on Steinbach paper, 370 x 560
$400

14 **Paper thin and pierced, Pierced Paper series VI,** 1983
acrylic and dry pigment on Steinbach paper, 370 x 560
$400

CHARO OQUET

Born in the Dominican Republic in 1952. Apart from a seven-year sojourn in the U.S.A. Charo received her formal education in the Dominican Republic, training as a secretary and a teacher and studying Fine Arts in Santo Domingo. From 1978 to 1982 she travelled widely in the U.S.A., Australia, and Europe. In 1982 she moved to New Zealand. Since 1980 she has worked full-time as a painter.

Charo has exhibited her work widely, mainly in London, the Dominican Republic, New York and New Zealand. Significant among group exhibitions she has participated in are one in Canning House, London, in 1982 and the 1984 Third Latin American Graphic Arts Biennial, at Cayman Gallery, New York. In New Zealand she has had one-woman exhibitions at RKS Art and Bowen Galleries in 1983, and in 1984 at Gingko Gallery in Christchurch, Red Metro Gallery in Dunedin, and Denis Cohn Gallery in Auckland.

Her work is represented in public collections in the Dominican Republic and New York.

15 **Big boy,** 1984
acrylic on canvas, 1700 x 2025
$900

16 **While all the good men watched,** 1983
acrylic on canvas, 1720 x 2440
N.F.S.

17 **The snake tamer,** 1984
acrylic and oil on unstretched canvas, 2090 x 1880
$900

ANGELA PORTEOUS

Born in Hamilton, 1954. Angela is unusual among artists in that she first studied horticulture and landscape technology, graduating from Lincoln College, Canterbury, with diplomas in each. Subsequently she studied Fine Arts at the University of Canterbury, gaining Dip F.A. in sculpture in 1982. Since that time she has lived and worked in Wellington.

The continuing theme in her work is the woman in her world. ''The woman's body is the vehicle by which she not only perceives herself in society but by which society views her.'' In this installation, ''the legs are totem objects, objects of desire and denial.''

18 **Hang-up,** 1984
25 moulded wax legs, mutton cloth and concrete, 2000 x 7000 x 7000
$1500

BIANCA VAN RANGELROOY

Born in Wellington in 1959. Bianca spent her childhood in Christchurch and Hawke's Bay. Study at Canterbury University School of Fine Arts from 1978-1982 led to a B.F.A. degree in painting and printmaking. Since then, while mostly employed as a mural painter and designer in Christchurch, she has exhibited her own work at the C.S.A. Gallery and the Brooke-Gifford Gallery in Christchurch, and at the Manawatu Art Gallery. At the end of 1982, with the help of a Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council grant, she exhibited at the Hawke's Bay Art Gallery and Museum.

19 **Study,** 1984
enamel and acrylic paints on paper and wood, with brass rod, 570 x 680 x 60
$80

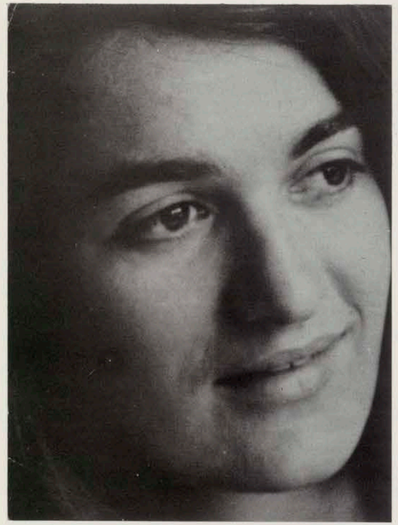
20 **Dancing star,** 1984
acrylic paints on paper, with brass rod, 1120 x 560 x 130
$250

21 **Drawing in space,** 1984
acrylic paints on paper, with brass rod, 1080 x 910 x 90
$300

22 **Emblazon,** 1984
acrylic paints on paper, with brass rod, 1400 x 870 x 200
$250

23 **Construction,** 1984
acrylic and enamel paints on paper, with brass rod, 1600 x 850 x 100
$250

PAULINE THOMPSON



Born in 1942, in Auckland. Studied art at Auckland University in 1960 and 1963-1964. Pauline's paintings have been exhibited in many group shows since 1959 and many one-woman exhibitions, the most recent being at Peter Webb Gallery and Denis Cohn Gallery. She has works in the Collections of the Auckland City Art Gallery, the Sarjeant Gallery, the Dunedin City Art Gallery, the National Gallery, and in the Prospect and Foresight Collections. She is represented in private collections in the United Kingdom and Australia, as well as in New Zealand.

24 **Molesworth Street in winter,** 1981
oil on canvasboard, 508 x 610
N.F.S.

25 **On Bloody Bridge, Norfolk Island**
oil on canvasboard, 508 x 610
N.F.S.

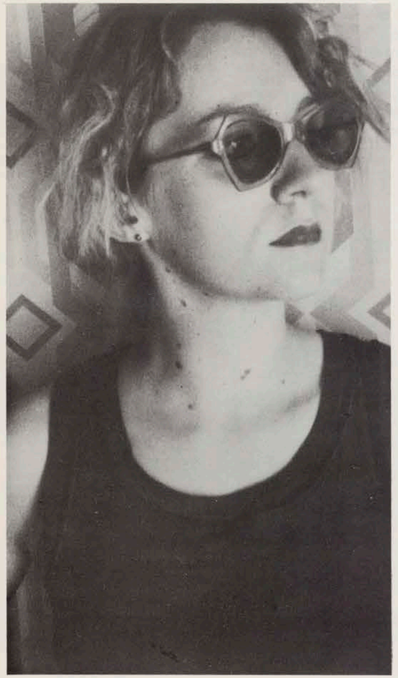
26 **Mission Bay fountain,** 1983
oil on canvas, 508 x 610
N.F.S.

27 **City square,** 1983
oil on canvas, 508 x 610
N.F.S.

28 **View of Central Police Station, Auckland; Guy Fawkes Night,** 1982
oil on canvas, 508 x 610
N.F.S.

29 **Town Hall clock tower, Auckland, with flags,** 1983
oil on canvasboard, 355 x 457
$450

CHRISTINE WEBSTER



Born in 1958 at Pukekohe. Christine studied drama at Massey and Victoria Universities from 1976-1979. During 1979 she also studied photography at Wellington Polytech, and began working with colour photographic printing in 1981.

She has exhibited in Photoforum Gallery shows from 1979-1981, and has had one-woman shows since then at Elva Bett Gallery, the Wellington City Art Gallery, the Manawatu Art Gallery and RKS Art in Auckland. Her work is represented in the collections of several major public art galleries in this country, as well as in the International Museum of Photography in Rochester, New York State.

30 **Domain — Paddy,** 1984
Cibachrome colour photograph, 560 x 508
$180

31 **Patti and flag,** 1984
Cibachrome colour photograph, 491 x 490
$180

32 **Craigwell House — Patrick Waller,** 1984
Cibachrome colour photograph, 526 x 508
$180

DELYN WILLIAMS

Born in 1956. Delyn studied Fine Arts at Auckland University 1974-1975 and in 1977, graduating Dip F.A. After training as a secondary teacher in 1978, she taught for a year at Lynfield College. During 1981 she travelled to England and Papua-New Guinea. On her return to New Zealand she worked on the Ponsonby mural scheme as a co-ordinator and painter, while also tutoring in art at the Auckland Society of Arts.

Delyn has exhibited works at Auckland City Art Gallery's Outreach, the Auckland Society of Arts, and at Bowen Galleries, Wellington.

33 **Like always wearing lipstick,** 1984
oil on canvas, 1854 x 2413
$800

34 **Colours that look onto the light well,** 1984
oil on canvas, 2413 x 1854
$800

35 **About face,** 1984
oil on canvas, 2362 x 1854
$800

36 **Still lifting weights,** 1984
oil on paper, 1092 x 762
$200

37 **The birds,** 1984
acrylic on paper, 1092 x 762
$200