

Public  
Programmes  
March  
2009

Te **Adam**  
Pātaka **Art**  
Toi **Gallery**

Soundcheck, Lecture & Workshop

# Public March Programmes 2009

## SOUND CHECK

### Live feed

*Performance by Christine White and Chris Black*

Recent graduates of the Sonic Arts programme at the New Zealand School of Music, Chris Black and Christine White will present two new site-specific sound works at the Adam Art Gallery. Each work is designed to emphasise the unique acoustic properties of the gallery space through an intricate speaker arrangement. Using contact microphones attached to the internal fixtures and surfaces of the building, microscopic sounds within the walls, floors, stair railings, and air ducts will be amplified, manipulated and used as raw compositional material. The compositions, built from both pre-existing and live sound material, will then be played back to the gallery further amplifying the resonance of the architecture to produce a multi-layered feedback environment.

**Adam Art Gallery**  
**Tuesday 3 March**  
**8pm**

## LECTURE

### The artist as harrow

Keynote lecture by Anna Smith from the School of Culture, Literature and Society at the University of Canterbury, commissioned by the Adam Art Gallery on the occasion of *I, HERE, NOW Vivian Lynn*

The machine that Franz Kafka invents in his short story *In the Penal colony* is called the Harrow. It is an elaborate torture and execution device that carves the sentence of each imprisoned man on his skin before letting him die. As the plot unfolds, the reader learns more and more about the machine and its intentions. Anna Smith will investigate the relationship of the accumulative nature of harrowing to the artistic production of Vivian Lynn, citing her critique of the capitalist 'machine' and discussing her use of human hair as another harrowing of the grotesque. Departing from the evident process of Lynn's work, Smith will also look at the strangeness of adults caught in 'play' and whether – by implication – art can save us by its playfulness and aesthetics; or whether in the end we are only left with excoriation.

Anna Smith teaches children's literature, cultures of the supernatural and postcolonial writing at the University of Canterbury. She has published work on Margaret Mahy, Keri Hulme, Julia Kristeva, Ben Okri and New Zealand women artists. She edited a collection of essays on cultural studies for Victoria University Press with Lydia Wevers and in 2006, published her first novel, *Politics 101*.

**Adam Art Gallery**  
**Thursday 5 March 2009**  
**6–7.30pm**

## WORKSHOP

### Out Loud: Using the 'F' Word Today

On the occasion of *I, HERE, NOW Vivian Lynn*, the Adam Art Gallery has invited a range of artists, curators, writers and thinkers to consider the very real question of whether a feminist position is viable, useful and necessary in our present moment. Key questions that will be addressed include: why do artists today shy away from calling themselves feminist? What do we understand to be the legacy of feminism as a driver for contemporary art since the 1960s (if not earlier)? Have the social and political issues with which feminism engaged gone away? What status does feminist theory now have in our thinking about the meaning and function of art? How do we account for the recent interest in the history of feminist art practice that has resulted in a number of important exhibitions? Do we look up to our senior woman artists? And what are the potential strategies and possible exhibition situations that could mine feminism's complex history to bring the agency of the movement back into play?

Participants include: Christina Barton, Ruth Buchanan, Judy Darragh, Charlotte Huddleston, Vivian Lynn, Sandy Callister, Louise Menzies, Gaylene Preston, Anna Sanderson, and Ruth Watson.

**Adam Art Gallery**  
**Thursday 12 March 2009**  
**5–7pm**  
**Followed by refreshments**

## ADAM ART GALLERY

Victoria University of Wellington, Gate 3, Kelburn Parade  
Open Tuesday–Sunday, 11am–5pm. Free entry

For all public programme enquiries contact Laura Preston

Email: [laura.preston@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:laura.preston@vuw.ac.nz)  
Ph: +64 4 463 5229  
Web: [www.victoria.ac.nz/adamartgallery](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/adamartgallery)