

MODERN ART
Artist Willough MacFarlane creates fantasy worlds in her work (left)

INTERVIEWS
MITCH
BROOK
PORTRAITS
DANIEL
ROSE

FACES OF THE ARTS

WE SPOKE TO YOUNG CREATIVES
AND THEIR SUPPORTERS ABOUT WHAT
MAKES WELLINGTON AN IDEAL HOME
FOR EMERGING ARTISTS



Behind the lens

Talented young photographer
Willough MacFarlane is gaining a
following after winning an Emerging
Artist Award at the 2014 NZ Art Show

TELL US ABOUT YOUR WORK

My practice is photographically based. I build fantasy worlds and environments and explore alternative ideas using film and digital photography, watercolour, drawing... whatever fits the concept. I love the contrasting ideas of dimensions and space in photography; even though photographs are flat, each contains objects and shapes that are three-dimensional.

WHAT HAS THIS AWARD GIVEN YOU?

Before my nomination by my university, I had no idea if I (or anyone else) liked my work –

I enjoyed it but was unsure. Winning the award gave me confidence in my work and an introduction into the art community.

WHY IS WELLINGTON A HOTSPOT FOR EMERGING ARTISTS?

The impact of creative campuses such as Massey University and Victoria University are huge. People in Wellington appreciate, enjoy and encourage all forms of art – not just visual arts, but performance, conceptual art, installations and film. There are a lot of emerging artists in Wellington and everyone is collaborative and supportive of one another.

Willough MacFarlane will exhibit some of her photographic work at 30upstairs gallery from 30 April. willoughmacfarlane.com





All on show

Midge Murray is artist liaison for the NZ Art Show, which presents four awards each year to promising emerging artists

TELL US ABOUT THE NZ ART SHOW EMERGING ARTIST AWARDS

These awards aim to recognise and encourage art students who show excellence. The prize money and exposure can really give them a head start and help launch their careers. The award is open to all media; winners have included painters, photographers, printmakers, mixed media artists and also installation artists. Last year one winner was light sculptor, Alvin Xiong.

WHAT'S THE EMERGING ARTIST SCENE LIKE IN WELLINGTON?

It's electric! It's easy to get around and see multiple exhibitions in one day. I like doing the 'Gallery Crawl' and visiting all the galleries in inner city Wellington, Porirua and the Hutt. There are a lot of ways emerging artists can showcase their art in Wellington – there are public and community galleries, lots of cafés that will hang art, pop-up galleries and, of course, the NZ Art Show, which showcases works by hundreds of artists each year. **The 2015 NZ Art Show will be held 19–21 June, and entries for the Emerging Artist Awards, presented 19 June, close 15 April. artshow.co.nz**



Great space

Mal Brow, photographer and art collector, is owner and curator at 30upstairs, a gallery dedicated to exhibiting work by emerging artists

TELL US ABOUT 30UPSTAIRS

We aim to give emerging artists a foot in the door with a space where they can show their work and be exposed to the art world – art collectors, dealers, curators. We look at art schools, we go to exhibitions, we meet artists and work with those who intrigue us. The artists get a show, which we pay for, curate and manage. We also help them sell their work, though we don't take commission. What we show varies – we've done installations, photography, video, sculpture and paintings.

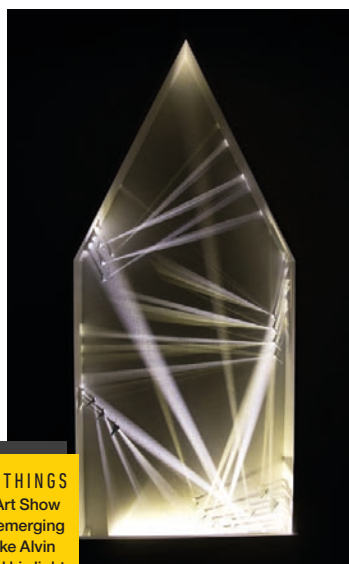
WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT THE EMERGING ARTS SCENE?

Meeting the people and getting to know how they work. Artists are curious and interesting people. I love all the different types of art that come through, and the enthusiasm that these young artists have is fantastic to see.

30upstairs has exhibitions throughout April. 30 Courtenay Place, Wellington. 30upstairs.co.nz



BRIGHT THINGS
The NZ Art Show rewards emerging artists like Alvin Xiong and his light sculptures (right)





Artist in residence

Laila O'Brien creates experimental works from varied materials. This month she finishes a three-month residency at 30upstairs gallery with a solo exhibition

TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF

Painting and installation are my usual methods. My current project derives from a piece of family history – my grandmother and the brothel she ran. My idea is about the environment and ambience, and what it was like to see that place as a child. It's an installation piece using fabrics and sewing with a video piece to go with it.

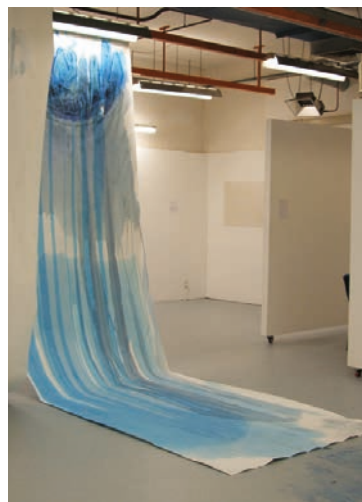
WHY IS WELLINGTON GREAT FOR EMERGING ARTISTS?

Wellington has such a creative culture – partly that's due to the universities. There's also a lot of crossover between arts practices and everyone is willing to help one another out so you get to expand your circle and meet people.

WHERE CAN EMERGING ARTISTS EXHIBIT THEIR WORK?

Toi Poneke Arts Centre and 30upstairs gallery both offer guidance for artists with things like marketing and how to run a show. There's also pop-up gallery Elbowroom, and In Good Company, which offers pop-up shows. Letting Space helps artists take up vacant property for their work, while Thistle Hall is a community gallery that hosts exhibitions.

Laila's work will be exhibited at the end of her residency at 30upstairs from 1 April. lailaobrien.co.nz ➤



“Wellington has such a creative culture”

MIXED MEDIA

Laila O'Brien blends sewing, painting and video for her latest installation work



Guiding light

Sally Thorburn is manager of the Emerging Artists Trust (EAT), an organisation that supports talented artists at the beginning of their careers

TELL US ABOUT THE EMERGING ARTISTS TRUST

We run a mentoring program, matching experienced professionals with upcoming talent. We also provide grants, run industry events, and provide writers groups. This support helps emerging artists put on a theatre work, create an exhibition or to make a short film. For people in the early stages of their careers, it's important to get that exposure, acclaim and varied experience.

WHAT ARTISTS DO YOU SUPPORT?

We work with anybody that has a great idea and demonstrates talent and passion in film, theatre or visual arts. We particularly support people who want to create a sustainable career in the arts.

WHAT MAKES WELLINGTON SO CREATIVELY DIVERSE?

Wellington is known as New Zealand's creative capital, and there's an ongoing abundance of cultural, performing arts, visual arts, film and community events. Similarly, the emerging artist scene in Wellington is incredibly vibrant – the city is full of talent.

eatwellington.org.nz



ARTISTIC SUPPORT

Sally Thorburn gives new talent a creative boost in their career

“We work with anyone that has a great idea and demonstrates talent”

AND ACTION!
Chaz Harris loves
Wellington for its
dedicated, vibrant
and creative
film industry



Direct collaboration

Chaz Harris, co-founder of Oneshot Collective, is working with other like-minded filmmakers in Wellington to create anthology feature film *Encounters*

TELL US ABOUT ONSHOT COLLECTIVE

Fellow filmmaker Conan McKegg and I co-founded Oneshot Collective last year to form a group of like-minded Wellington filmmakers. We felt we were developing scripts but not shooting anything so we decided to combine our short films and work together on each other's projects. That way we would create a feature film piece and also showcase emerging talent in Wellington – our final film will be called *Encounters*.

WHY IS WELLINGTON THE BEST PLACE TO DO THIS?

There's a passion in the city to be involved in creative projects. I moved from the UK to Wellington after

watching behind-the-scenes footage from the *Lord of the Rings*. People working on films here seemed so excited about their creative work. I thought, "that's what it should be like", and I've absolutely found that is the case in Wellington.

WHAT SUPPORT HAVE YOU RECEIVED?

Aside from PledgeMe fundraising contributions, key support has come from the Emerging Artists Trust, who set up a mentorship with producer Catherine Fitzgerald, a renowned short-film producer. The industry has really got behind us too – bigger productions like Peter Jackson's *The Hobbit* attract world-class expertise to Wellington that wouldn't be here otherwise. As a result, I regularly see hugely experienced industry pros offering to help new talent.

Chaz's horror short *Awake* is part of anthology film *Encounters*, due for release early 2016.
oneshotcollective.co.nz ★

新進アーティストが集まるウェリントン

マル・ブロウ 「30アップステアーズ」では、アーティストたちに足掛かりを与えられるよう場を提供しています。費用を負担し、展示の機会を得てもらい、作品販売にも協力しています。彼らとの出会い、作品の仕上がる工程も楽しんでいます。

ライラ・オブライエン 通常はペインティングとインсталレーションで制作しています。今は遊郭が題材で、その場所に対して子供の時に感じた雰囲気テーマ。ここには創造する文化が存在し、異なる手法が交差する環境で、互いに刺激し合えます。

チャズ・ハリス 脚本を書いてましたが、映画制作者と協力し合い「ワンショット・コレクティブ」を昨年立ち上げました。ここに移ってきたのは、「ロード・オブ・ザ・リング」の製作現場を撮影した映像を見たあとだったので、興奮しましたね。

サリー・ソーバーン 「エマージング・アーティスト・トラスト」には、プロ同士が会える育成プログラムがあります。助成金提供など含めて、素晴らしいアイデアを持った人なら誰でもサポートします。

ウィロウ・マクファーレン 写真が中心ですが、コンセプトに合うものなら何でも取り入れ探索しています。新進アーティスト賞をいただいたことで、自分の作品に自信が持てるようになりました。

ミッジ・マレー 新進アーティスト賞の目的は優秀な人たちを見出すこと。賞金を得て認識されることで、一歩先に出られます。彼らは衝撃的ですよ。公共・地域のギャラリーに加え、作品を展示するカフェやポップアップ・ギャラリー、そしてNZアートシヨート、チャンスにあふれていますからね。