Judge’s Statement

It has been an honour and a privilege to be the Judge for the 2006 Trust Waikato National Contemporary Art Awards. These awards have presented a great opportunity to test the pulse of the New Zealand contemporary art scene.

Attending last year’s awards for the first time, just shortly after my arrival in New Zealand, I remember being greatly impressed by the high standard of the works. This year there has been an excellent number of participants and the bar has been raised. The diverse range of media and artistic practices, which includes drawing, painting, sculpture, graffiti, installation, photography, video and digital animation, are characteristic of the entries as a whole.

There is also a great range of competitive ages and degree of artistic development represented. Emerging artists freshly graduated from art schools stand side-by-side those with solid careers. A mutual challenge is posed to both groups. This selection represents a conscious aim at finding a balance between established and up-and-coming artists for whom this exhibition would bring greater visibility, especially when living outside major art centres like Auckland or Wellington.

My judging criteria has taken into consideration the current high standards of art produced in New Zealand. The high proportion of entries from new artists has given a fresh look to this year’s finalists.

To accommodate the large number of entries, particularly those that are spatially intense, the Waikato Museum has generously offered to extend the exhibition space by relocating the collection in the adjacent gallery. I am most grateful to their serious dedication and commitment to these Awards.

Mercedes Vicente

Mary Ellen Batchelor
Surface and Substance
$7000

Jonathan Brown
Chrysalis (2005) silver ring with $2000

Glenn Burrell
Standing acrylic on paper $6500

Sandra Bushby
Embroidered necklace.
$1500

Kevin Capon
Lilac light, electronic insect control
$1500

Paul Cullen
The orange theory
$1500

Nicola Donald
Sculpture $1500

Marisa Dudek
Purple hare
$1500

Matt Ellwood
Trying to get you digital print $1500

Richard Fraser
Auditorium video, monitor
$1500

Andrea Gardner
Untitled (conversation)
$1500

Glen Hayward
The trickle down effect
$1500

Dorothy Helyer
She used to call her father 'Sir'.
$1500

Matt Henry
Inkblot
$1500

Joe Hoon Lee
Stringer
$1500

Vanessa Jack
Revisiting digital print $1500

Ina Johansen
Stills with 2 dots over stamper
$1500

Gina Jones
Untitled (sketchbook)
$1500

James Keene & Katja Fabig
Flint kinesis
$1500

Peeta Larkim
Double vision
$1500

Simon Lawrence
Print video installation
$1500

Hye Rim Lee
Pierced C
$1500

Meiling Lee
Longing
$1500

Ross Liew
Better out than in (the Trust Me project)
$1500

Jennifer Mason
Mother
$1500

Gina Matchitt
Shadow (Avalanche) Sticker on paper $1500

Amy Melichor
Mrs McLain's chair II
$1500

Rachel Miller
Urban scavenger - stone for a city
$1500

Roger Mortimer
Running man
$1500

Alexis Neal
In loving memory
$1500

Anna Parlane
The basket
$1500

Bruce Phillips
Ipod Nano and magic mushroom
$1500

Miranda Playfair
It's not what you do, it's the way that you do it
$1500

Mark Purdon
Cure up, 2001 – 2006
$1500

Artwork Sales

All works are for sale and all sales are through the Waikato Society of Arts (WSA). Payment may be made by cash, cheque, Visa or MasterCard. A WSA representative will be available during the opening of the exhibition to accept works and arrange distribution. The WSA operates on sales and any sales enquiries should be made directly to the WSA, Level 1, Artspace Building, 120 Victoria Street (next door to the Museum).

WSA opening hours Monday - Friday 8:30am to 5:30pm

Phone 07 839 4881

After hours contact Graeme Henry 07 8436203

CK Reynolds
Absolude ceiling
$1500

Ann Shelton
A library to scale, part II

Angela Singer
On sharing and receiving
$1500

Jill Sorensen
On sharing and receiving
$1500

Clair Van der Plas
Luke
$1500

Andrea Wilkinson
Without you I am just a sign or unemployment
$1500

Marcus Williams
The trespass
$1500

Lynda Wilson
Stereolink
$1500

Maree Wilson
Anxious domestic space, print on wood $1500
Director’s Statement
The Trust Waikato National Contemporary Art Award continues
to raise a lot of interest from artists throughout New Zealand
and abroad. This year the museum received 270 entries, from
which the Judge – Mercedes Vicente, selected 48 finalists.
Mercedes is an independent curator and art writer who has
worked in several public and private galleries including the
Whitney Museum of American Art, and most recently at the
Govett-Brewster Art Gallery as the Curator of Contemporary
Art. As an art critic, she has contributed to international
publications including Exit, Lapiz, Manifesta Journal, Broadsheet
and the Govett-Brewster’s magazine VISIT.

The Waikato Museum is pleased to host this high-profile
contemporary art exhibition for the fifth year running and is
encouraged by the increased interest of the sponsors, illustrated
in the larger prize offered this year, as well as the increased
number of entries received. The Trust Waikato National
Contemporary Art Award has developed a reputation for the
challenging and often controversial entries it attracts and has
become one of the highlights of the arts calendar in the City.

Kate Vusoniwaila