

MIND GAMES

— AN EXHIBITION OF —
SURREALISM

IN
AOTEAROA

— 6 FEBRUARY - 5 APRIL 2009 —



'Wrong Way' by Mary McIntyre, Photo by Leo Van Lin



HCAG
HASTINGS CITY ART GALLERY

201 EASTBOURNE STREET EAST, HASTINGS

Tel: 06 8715095 Fax: 06 8715096

10am - 4.30pm Daily. Free entry.



The Hastings City Art Gallery and The Hastings District Council would like to thank the following for their support:



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A year ago to the day I write this, I embarked on the challenging role of Director for the Hastings City Art Gallery. Previously known as the Hawke's Bay Exhibition Centre, it had a legacy of wonderful exhibitions while it operated under the Hawke's Bay Cultural Trust. During the period of change there was a very real threat of the Hawke's Bay Exhibition Centre closing its doors for good and when the public duly protested, the Hastings District Council set up a working group to draft a new vision for the centre. Upon completion of the new vision I was employed as Director to implement the visioning document.

We are now a very small, but highly skilled new team, excited by the coming year's programme. As planned we have set up an advisory group of art specialists, educators, and cultural experts, we have undergone a wee bit of a face lift, and yes, we have changed our name.

Now we launch, we officially open as your Public Art Gallery, The Hastings City Art Gallery.

In Summer last year, I experienced my very first Art Deco festival in Napier. It was suggested that I programme an exhibition at the Gallery, to entice festival goers to come over to Hastings where they can also enjoy Art Deco architecture. The idea for 'Mind-Games' came about by discussing this with our guest curator, and now good friend Jan Vaessen. While eager to assist me to put on an exhibition to 'pull the crowds', he was adamant that Deco wasn't his thing. When I looked at Jan's exceptional collection of Contemporary Art, it occurred to me that a large percentage of it could be described as Surrealist in style.

That was it, here was the answer! Andre Breton wrote the first Surrealist Manifesto in 1924 around the same time that the Art Deco Style emerged in France.

The Surrealist movement suggested all was not well with society. A deep mistrust of the wealthy classes, materialism and the emphasis on technological achievements of World War One celebrated by the La Société des artistes décorateurs (the society of the decorator artists) were attacked. Surrealism was the 'Flip side of Deco'!

Jan Vaessen said YES, and he and wife Mariet went on a surreal adventure around New Zealand visiting public and private collections, dealer galleries and artists studios. I approached my old colleague, Dr Lisa Perrott, who makes and teaches experimental film and asked if she was interested in a curatorial role for the moving image work.

Suddenly everyone is in. We have the makings of a big show for our summer launch.

How many people can remember that first time they saw a painting by Salvador Dali?

Even if you don't remember the name, the term 'melting clocks' bring instant recognition. It appeals to so many people as the level of illustrative craftsmanship (e.g. painters Magritte, Dali, Delvaux among others) can be appreciated before even pondering the meaning of the mystical content of their work.

It fulfils our romantic notion of what contemporary art might be, or can achieve.

There is something so wonderfully levelling about this genre

How is it that something so culturally ubiquitous is considered cliché and has fallen out of fashion? Was it ever in fashion in New Zealand?

Did Surrealism just open up the back door of the wardrobe for contemporary art and we never looked back?.

Jan Vaessen, Lisa Perrott and I have greatly enjoyed asking ourselves these

questions. While we have come up with our own opinions, and you can read about them in the catalogue essays, I think it is up to you, the viewer to decide.

As the Surrealists might say 'your own perception of reality is the right one,'

We are happy in our reality.

Do enjoy the Hastings City Art Gallery.... and please come again.

Director

Maree Mills

14/ January 2009

Artist	Judge, Paul
Current Location	Hamilton, New Zealand
D.O.B	1957

Artists Information:

Paul teaches Media Arts at the Waikato Institute of Technology and works as an independent writer and filmmaker. He directed the award-winning documentary *Trapp on Tape*, an adaptation of James K. Baxter's *Lament for Barney Flanagan* and the cult classic *The Last Surrealist*. He most recently co-produced the feature length documentary on renowned Dunedin musician David Kilgour, *Far Off Town: Dunedin to Nashville*. He is currently completing a documentary on the major New Zealand artist Don Driver.

Artists Statement:

"The Last Surrealist was inspired by the real life Hawke's Bay personality, William Peter Trapp, a French immigrant and refugee from the Nazis, and his alter ego Pierre Villon, who in every respect was a Surrealist. I wanted to convey the essence of this world-view, a European aesthetic in the context of the New Zealand landscape. Made with a wonderful, fully committed team the film was ambitious from the start. The guiding principle was to capture that 'beauty' of the transfixed moment, still frames from the film *The Last Surrealist*. Working with cinematographer Rewa Harre on this film was one of the profound pleasures of my life. There were moments when we were both in hysterics at the sheer beauty of the shots he was framing. He brought to this film an incredible formal classicism, and yet a tremendous feeling for the landscape, the drama and the poetry. The characters themselves fit into the landscape in an almost mythic sense. The main actor's body language and expression will always fill me with delight, as well as a certain sadness. "

Paul Judge 2009

Artist: Paul Judge

Title: The Last Surrealist Film Stills:

1) L'amour Fou

2) Pierre Villon meets Andre Breton on the clifftops of Cape Kidnappers

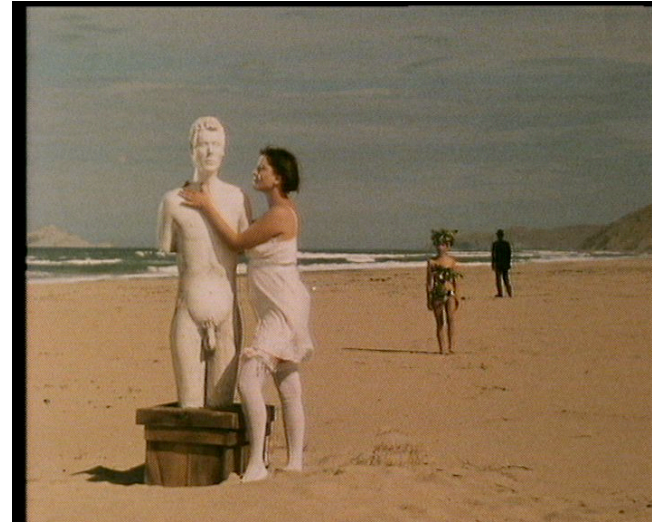
Year: 2008

Medium: Framed limited edition digital print on photographic paper

Dimension: 420 x 297

Source: Courtesy of Film maker

For Sale: \$550.00 each



Hastings City Art Gallery presents 'Mind Games' Surrealism in Aotearoa New Zealand February 5-April 5 2009
Director : Maree Mills M.F.A, Guest Curator: Jan Vaessen, Guest curator of moving image: Dr Lisa Perrott ©

Film maker: **Paul Judge**
Title: The Last Surrealist
Year: 1993
Medium: 16mm
Length: 18:30
Source: Private collection of Artist
paul.judge@wintec.ac.nz



Artists Statement:

Nominated for 'Best Short Film' in the New Zealand Film and Television Awards, 1993, this film is an affectionate parody of the heyday of surrealist art. Ahead of its time in theme and treatment, it prefigures *Shadow of A Vampire* with its meta-cinematic tale of an iconic filmmaker struggling with the act of creation.

Filmed entirely on location in Hawke's Bay, the stunning photography propelled Rewa Harre's career, his work here being used as a show-reel for the job of shooting 2nd unit on *The Piano*.

With editing by the talented and already accomplished documentary maker, C.R.Todd, the film finds its sumptuous yet comic style, closer to Fellini, Tati or Wise, than to the Dali-Bunuel experiments that are the film's cue.

The imaginative sound design is by the to be Oscar winner Mike Hopkins, being one of the last films he worked on before his consummation into the *Lord of The Rings* enterprise.

The music of Debussy and Saint-Saens is complimented with original compositions in the French cabaret style by the jazz/fusion musician Chris Orange, who assembled his Mad Love Orchestra for the occasion.

With heartfelt performances from a mostly non-professional cast this short film, above all else, is a moving portrayal of one man's confrontation with the great contradictions of life, as he wails, "The only realities are the time of love and the duration of death".

A Three-To-One Films production ©1993©2008 www.farofftown.com

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