

EL RETOR- NO DEL BARRO- CO

ARTISTS

- Reweti Arapere
- Richard Reddaway
- Terry Urbahn
- Catherine Bagnall
- Jae Hoon Lee
- Joanna Langford
- Simon Morris
- Anna Brown

EXHIBITION OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Monday to Friday
2 July - 27 July 2012
9:30 - 5:00pm

Embassy of Mexico
Level 2, 187 Featherston St
Wellington



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“Curated By”

El Retorno del Barroco is the Embassy of Mexico’s second “Curated by” exhibition. On this occasion a collaborative team lead by Richard Reddaway explores a project that generated (and continues to generate) artistic understanding between our Mexico and New Zealand. We are very gratified that the participants are among the most talented and world-renowned contemporary artists from this country.

In the popular imagination, Embassies are usually off-limits territories, mysterious fortresses where unknown officials keep their business to themselves. But it is true that for Mexico, the role and function of our embassies evolve as our standing and projection in world affairs does.

“Curated by” Richard Reddaway reprises the experiences of this group of artists as visitors to Mexico for the exhibition “El Barroco de Aotearoa” at the University Museum of Contemporary Art (MUCA Roma), Mexico City. After some conversation, the initial invitation mutated from a traditional art exhibition, where art works have to find the best way to fit in a designated space, to an open invitation to “intervene” in the Embassy.

In other words, “Curated by” requests that the artists and the curator explore the different Embassy spaces, from common areas like corridors to working spaces such as offices and, of course, the Gallery area itself. The challenge is for the artists to roam freely around uncharted territory, using different techniques and art works to propose a dialogue between their experiences and the space, so to speak, to wander on extra-territorial Mexican soil.

The Embassy presents itself for this exhibition as an extension of Mexico, as our country has been and will be for years to come: open and engaging, friendly and willing to host. We trust that the artists will enjoy participating in this exhibition and invite everyone to pay us a visit and experience Mexico the way such a talented group of New Zealand artists did.

**Mexican Embassy in New Zealand
June 2012**

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Reweti Arapere

Reweti Arapere is an emerging Māori artist, committed to presenting customary Māori stories in a contemporary light. Born in 1984 in Tauranga with Ngāti Raukawa, Ngāti Porou and Ngāti Tuwharetoa iwi affiliations, he studied at Massey University School of Māori Visual Arts in Palmerston North.

Catherine Bagnall

Catherine Bagnall draws from the edges of fashion and performance art practices, often working and exhibiting with long-time collaborator and furniture designer **Julian Bishop** to explore site and our relationship to the ecologies of environment. She has an extensive exhibition history that includes residencies in Korea (the Nine Headed Dragon Environmental art Symposium) and Austria (at the Kunstlerateliers Niederosterreich / Galerie Stadtpark, Krems).

Joanna Langford

Joanna Langford was born in 1978, Gisborne. She completed a Bachelor of Media Arts at Waikato Polytechnic in 1999, and has since then exhibited extensively in New Zealand and abroad. She has recently constructed major works for Christchurch, Wellington and Dunedin Art Galleries and Gertrude Street Gallery in Melbourne. She has been the recipient of residencies including the Olivia Spencer Bower, the Royal Overseas League residency in London and Scotland, the SIM residency in Iceland and the Frances Hodgkins Fellowship in Dunedin.

Jae Hoon Lee

JAE HOON LEE was born in Seoul, Korea in 1973, but has for the past ten years lived in a number of countries, including the United States and New Zealand. He has a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the San Francisco Art Institute, and is currently engaged in Doctoral research at the Elam School of Fine Arts University of Auckland. He has exhibited extensively in New Zealand, Australia, Korea and the United States.

Terry Urbahn

Terry Urbahn studied at the Canterbury School of Fine Arts in Christchurch, graduating in 1986. While he studied painting, his practice has broadened into sculptural installations that include photography, video and sound. A survey of Urbahn's works was staged at the NZ Film Archive in Wellington in 2009 and his work is held in the collections of New Zealand's public art galleries and museums as well as numerous private collections.

Simon Morris

Simon Morris has developed a critical interest in painting that stretches from object based painting to site responsive wall drawings, installation, and architectural collaborations. His primary focus is the examination of visual systems, their proliferation and rupture in space and time in the context of contemporary abstract painting. He holds a BFA From Canterbury University, Christchurch and an MFA from RMIT, Melbourne and is currently a Senior Lecturer in the School of Fine Art, Massey University, Wellington.

Richard Reddaway

Richard Reddaway is an artist and academic, writer and, most recently, the curator of the exhibition *El Barroco de Aotearoa* at MUCA Roma, Mexico City. His research uses Complex Dynamical Systems Theory and non-linear aesthetics to construct an understanding of baroque tendencies in contemporary visual culture.

Anna Brown

Anna Brown is a nationally recognised book designer. She has produced a rich body of work through her studio ABDesign, including fruitful collaborations with many New Zealand photographers and commissions from leading art galleries and publishers. She holds a BFA From Ilam School of Fine Art, Canterbury University and a MDes from the College of Creative Arts, Massey University.