

4 May 2010



Michael Parekowhai, *Patriot: Ten Guitars* 1999

Art plays on

They say that to replay the past is to come to terms with it. This is just what the artists and the exhibition that opens this Saturday at the Adam Art Gallery sets out to do. *Play On* brings together for the first time four key installations made in the 1990s with a new work especially made for the occasion. They all have one thing in common: they all treat music as their subject.

The works are: Julian Dashper's *The Big Bang Theory* (1992-1993), Michael Parekowhai's *Patriot: Ten Guitars* (1999), Slave Piano's *Slave Pianos (of the Art Cult)* (1998-1999), and Terry Urbahn's *The Karaoke* (1995-1997), which are joined by Ava Seymour's *11 Bars of Oboe* (2010).

Julian Dashper created fictitious rock bands whose names are the same as New Zealand's greatest artists. Entitled *The Big Bang Theory* his installation features a series of named drum kits including The Colin McCahons, The Hoteres, and The Anguses. Terry Urbahn's work is interactive and invites an audience to sing along to music videos made by fellow artists. *Slave Pianos* (Michael Stevenson with Australian collaborators, Danius Kesminus, Rohan Drape and Neil Kelly) allows the viewer to automate a grand piano which plays an archive of avant-garde sound art, and Michael Parekowhai's *Ten Guitars* with its paua-inlaid guitars aligned in sculptural formation recalls those Maori entertainers of the 1960s who brought their musical talent to the world of popular music.

Ava Seymour has been invited to add a new work to this stellar line-up. Her suite of 11 large-scale photographs recalls and encodes a secret history relating to New York's underground music scene of the 1960s and '70s.

One motive for the exhibition says Christina Barton, Director of the Adam Art Gallery and curator of the exhibition, "is to reflect on the ways in which artists in the 1990s made ambitious works that used music to ask serious questions about history, culture and identity, especially by referencing real artists and artworks."

Considering the significant ways these installations reflect on the social, cultural and critical turns of the 1990s and beyond, *Play On* raises important questions about what art is and how culture works.

Play On

Julian Dashper
Michael Parekowhai
Ava Seymour
Slave Pianos
Terry Urbahn

Adam Art Gallery
Victoria University of Wellington
8 May — 25 July 2010

Invitation to lecture and exhibition launch

You are invited to attend a lecture by Robert Leonard this Friday 7 May at 6pm. This will address Julian Dashper's *The Big Bang Theory* and will officially launch the exhibition.

Robert Leonard is a leading curator known for his work in New Zealand and Australia. He is currently Director of the Institute of Modern Art in Brisbane.

Special media previews of the exhibition will be available during the day on Friday 7 May by appointment only. Some of the artists and the curator will be available for interviews.

If you require further information or high quality images please contact Laura Preston. Email: laura.preston@vuw.ac.nz Phone: (04) 463 5229

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OPEN Tuesday – Sunday, 11am - 5pm (closed only on Monday)
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