

SCULPTURE IN THE GARDENS

Auckland Botanic Gardens

9 October 2011–12 February 2012

Edited version. See
Elementals Group
with Bryan Jones
(Little Tin Goddess,
bronze)





Welcome

Len Brown
Mayor of Auckland

Auckland has a unique setting, nestled amongst three harbours, studded with volcanic cones and fringed by native bush-clad ranges and beautiful beaches.

This beautiful natural environment is one of the things that makes Auckland such a great place to live. We are immensely fortunate to have parks and gardens across the region that let us enjoy and make good use of our green spaces. As a council, we are determined to protect and enhance our precious natural environment.

I'm lucky that the Auckland Botanic Gardens is my 'local', a park not far off being an extension of my backyard.

I enjoy seeing how well frequented the gardens are, by people from all backgrounds and of all ages, be it large family groups enjoying a picnic, local residents walking their dogs or busloads of garden enthusiasts from the opposite end of the region.

It is a popular spot for new Aucklanders getting to know their region and for budding horticulturalists looking for advice, ideas and inspiration.

Hundreds of thousands of people have flocked to the gardens for the first two Sculpture in the Gardens events. These events give Aucklanders and visitors alike a visually stimulating and thought-provoking new way to enjoy these gardens.

To the Friends, the artists and the organisers: congratulations on this, the third Sculpture in the Gardens. This is a truly incomparable celebration of New Zealand's best artistic talent, in a uniquely Auckland setting.

To Jack Hobbs and the staff of the Auckland Botanic Gardens, you have one of the best 'offices' in the region! Keep up the good work.

Come along to Sculpture in the Gardens – relax, enjoy and take a fresh look.



Introduction

Graeme Hauer

President Friends of the Auckland Botanic Gardens

The Friends are immensely proud of Sculpture in the Gardens. It is the most significant event we hold, engaging thousands of visitors with plants and great art. We are delighted with the show's achievements to date and remain committed to its future success.

The prospects for this year's exhibition looked rather gloomy a year or so ago due to a significant funding shortfall; the event was under threat.

I proposed to the Friends' executive that we pick up the shortfall, some \$50,000, and was delighted with their positive response – a significant move for which they must be congratulated.

As in previous years, the Friends will again be funding the purchase of an artwork from the exhibition.

I also thank the ASB Community Trust for supporting Sculpture in the Gardens. The Trust has provided considerable funding for each exhibition to date, and we are grateful for their ongoing support.

This summer, hundreds of thousands of people will be inspired by sculpture. They will also enjoy the many other activities and opportunities that are on offer, including guided walks, meeting the artists, food, wine and music.

This comprehensive programme is due to the dedicated efforts of our organising committee. In particular I must acknowledge Liz Powell and Byrdie Ayres, both strong advocates for this exhibition, on our executive. Mich Newton is, as always, the driving force behind the scenes and we would be nowhere without our curatorial panel of Alexa Johnston, Richard Mathieson and Rachel de Lambert.

Finally, I must congratulate the participating artists for putting on such a great exhibition. The quality of the artworks is superb, and they will be an inspiration to more than 300,000 visitors over the coming months.





From the Curatorial Team

Alexa Johnston

Rachel de Lambert

Richard Mathieson

That we have this year reached the third Sculpture in the Gardens exhibition is a cause for celebration and a testament to the determination of the Friends and the staff of the Auckland Botanic Gardens to keep their bold initiative alive in complicated and difficult times. And this year's exhibition is very much alive with a dynamic array of works spreading out and inhabiting the glades, lawns, pools, paths and hidden spaces of the Gardens with energy, humour, sparkle, colour, thoughtfulness and serious purpose.

Walking this year's sculpture trail brings not only new experiences of the maturing beauty of the Gardens and the endless creativity of the sculptors, but all sorts of interwoven memories. There are memories of other works which have inhabited the spaces and left their marks on our minds, and memories of earlier works by the same artists demonstrating the range of which they are capable. Think of Jim Wheeler's scrambling, invasive *Kudzu!* in the first show and his simple tanekaha *Object of Devotion* this year; or Christine Hellyar's small, flood-surviving creatures in 2009 and now her graceful, nurturing *Kava Kawakawa Fountain*; or Jamie Pickernell's witty *Teenage Text Bunny* and his composed and elegant – but sharp-beaked – *Bird Lady*. Last time Bing Dawe's endangered birds were wishing for St Francis and this year they are still waiting for him. Tui Hobson, Jeff Thomson, John Edgar, Richard Wedekind and Llew Summers have all contributed to the growing sense that this show is part of a continuum – an important and enjoyable addition to the range of outdoor exhibitions held in greater Auckland. Purchases by the Friends of a number of works now permanently installed continue to strengthen the connection between these gardens and superb outdoor sculpture.

Many sculptors exhibiting for the first time this year will put their stamp on our visual memories with brilliant new works and experiences. Bronwynne Cornish uses living plants in her sheltering *Bivy*, whereas Mia Hamilton and Bev Goodwin festoon pool and lawns with exotic handmade blooms. Lucy Bucknall's *Big Man* draws us into his sombre reverie in the Perennial Garden, while from Bryan Verey's *Swing* we have a dizzying new vantage point for viewing the roses – and there is much more to discover as you walk around. Terry Stringer had the bright idea of asking a group of artists to make the small works which cluster on poles near the visitor centre in Garden Elementals, bringing still more variety to this year's show, and inside Huakaiwaka is a display of smaller works by many of the artists who have shown in past exhibitions. With such a rich and generous variety of experiences for the people of Auckland, we are confident that Sculpture in the Gardens is here to stay.

The curatorial team is grateful to the Friends of the Auckland Botanic Gardens for their visionary leadership of this project; to the staff of the Gardens – Jack Hobbs, Micheline Newton and their dedicated team – for their efficient and enthusiastic management; to the sponsors for making the exhibition possible and to the artists for their wonderful work. It has again been a privilege to be part of this event.

Participating artists

The first number refers to the trail guide (back cover fold-out page);
the second number is the page number.

1	Jim Wheeler	13
2	Richard Wedekind	17
3	Elementals group	21
4	Tui Hobson	25
5	Bev Goodwin	29
6	Lucy Bucknall	33
7	Regan Gentry	37
8	John Oxborough	41
9	Mia Hamilton	45
1	Todd Douglas	49
11	Bronwynne Cornish	53
12	Lgop co-op	57
13	Bryan Verey	61
14	John Edgar	65
15	Chris Moore	69
16	Jeff Thomson	73
17	Gill Gatfield	77
18	Llew Summers	81
19	Bing Dawe	85
2	Jamie Pickernell	89
21	Christine Hellyar	93



3 Elementals group*

Garden Elementals

Metal, wood, ceramic and resin on stainless steel poles
Pole 1200mm, work 200mm – 500mm

\$2,000 – \$12,000

*(collaboration of 14 artists) Graham Bennett, Tanya Blong, Bill Hayes, Bryan Jones, Virginia King, Samantha Lissette, Lauren Lysaght, Richard McWhannell, Christine Massey, John Papas, Terry Stringer, Marte Szirmay, Greer Twiss, Jim Wheeler.

Like pins clustered on a big pincushion, these works form a ritualistic group on the Gardens' lawn. But each work is available separately, for taking away to another outdoor site, where it might become the resident garden spirit.

Garden Elementals is a collaboration of 14 artists, initiated by Terry Stringer. They are a mixture of unique works and editions, available either mounted on the presentation pole, or not.

The idea for this collaboration grew from an installation in Terry Stringer's own garden; a series of small works on poles at the bends of an outdoor staircase. Stringer experimented with similar groupings at *Sculpture OnShore* and was struck by the way people responded to the works in an outdoor setting – commenting with freedom and relaxed laughter, 'unlike the whispering of gallery behaviour'.



Terry Stringer
Sun Beholder 2011



Lauren Lysaght
Ghost Swan



Christine Massey
An Offering



Bryan Jones
Little Tin Goddess



John Papas
The Complete Environment



Graham Bennett
On Watch



Bill Hayes
Temple of the Bird Man



Marte Szirmay
Head Above the Water 2011



Greer Twiss
Pause 2011



Jim Wheeler
Regeneration – Punri Finial 2011



Tanya Blong
Hammer and the Anvil



Richard McWhannell
Pinup



Virginia King
Kereru



Samantha Lissette
The Peace Makers