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Auckland Art Gallery MEDIA RELEASE



Stuart Page and Michael Shannon *Green Police, Christchurch* 1981, Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki, purchased 1984

Auckland Art Gallery's latest exhibition *Earth Matters*, now showing until 28 September, explores 'the environment' through the work of 13 artists.

Contemporary curator Natasha Conland says while there is growing awareness of environmental issues, 'the environment' rarely enters art as solely a political issue.

"Today concepts of the environment are inextricably linked to ideas of global exchange, the physical planet and our location on it, as well as traditional genres of landscape and land art," she says.

Earth Matters investigates how we report on the world, and respond to our environment – either as physical matter or image proxy – with available technologies.

"This eclectic array of work reveals how contemporary art typically responds to the world by depicting either sides of immediate locality (its soil and earth), sites of exchange, or a total picture of the globe, often with the comic realisation of the ineptitude of form to reveal the totality of our experience of earth," she says.

The artists, featured in *Earth Matters*, work in a variety of media from photography and painting to sound installation to create images of our activity on earth whether through the

appropriation of news headlines, Google Earth's live imaging, or playing with pop culture depictions of the globe.

The exhibition includes a new project by young Wellington-based artist Amy Howden-Chapman, who has documented a performance work carried out by friends and volunteers, asking them to re-enact the rubbish flow on the Pacific Ocean.

Another highlight of the exhibition, which includes art works from contemporary New Zealand and international artists from the past 30 years, is the display of works by internationally renowned New Zealand artists et al. and Michael Stevenson. Following their presentation at the Venice Biennale, in the last two years, these artists have both been chosen to exhibit art works in *Art Unlimited* exhibition in Basel, Switzerland, in association with the most prominent art fair in Europe – Art Basel.

Earth Matters

1 May to 28 September
Auckland Art Gallery, New Gallery
Free admission

For enquiries from the media:

Eran Donders

Communications co-ordinator, Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki

Phone: +64 9 307 7706, Mobile: 027 291 9953

Email: eran.donders@aucklandcity.govt.nz

General enquiries to :

Auckland Art Gallery

Phone : +64 9 307 7700

emial : [gallery @aucklandartgallery.govt.nz](mailto:gallery@aucklandartgallery.govt.nz)