

## Chairman's Report

It has been a challenging and rewarding time of renewed focus in 2018/19 year for Tauranga Art Gallery.

In December 2018 Director Karl Chitham resigned after 3.5 years to take up directorial role in Lower Hutt. In February 2019 we were most fortunate to appoint Alice Hutchison as our new Director. Alice has come to the gallery after a stellar international arts career and has quickly used her connections in bringing exceptional art exhibitions to Toi Tauranga.

The Trust Board, the Gallery Director and her staff have continued to work collaboratively to explore ways to build capability and provide new opportunities to achieve the Gallery's Purpose which is; "To create exceptional art experiences that engage, inspire, challenge and educate".

## Art Experiences and Events

Our exhibitions highlight for 2018/19 was Megaworld featuring internationally celebrated artists Gary Baseman (US), Sun Xun (China), NZ artists Natasha Cousens, Ahsin Ahsin, Anti-heroes: Ryan Heshka (CA), Dash Shaw (US), Tommi Parrish (AU) Ron Rege Jr (US), Mardo El-Noor, Dylan Horrocks and Tom Scott (NZ).

Mega World started with Anti-heroes on 23<sup>rd</sup> February and ran until 7<sup>th</sup> July. A total visitation of 23,692 vs 34,000 of the previous year's signature exhibition but still above the target of 15,000.

A highlight was a NZ-first exhibition by the Emmy and BAFTA award winning LA-based artist Gary Baseman curated by Director Alice Hutchison. The opening event and Baseman's workshops and events were well-attended and his large social media following of over 170,000 people, brought Tauranga into the international spotlight. We also hosted Dash Shaw and Jane Samborski from the US and in partnership with the US Embassy organised national speaking tours and screenings at universities and galleries in Tauranga, Hamilton and Wellington under the auspices of Tauranga Art Gallery.

Mega World drew major national and international media attention on the gallery and Tauranga, including coverage on TVNZ News and NZ Herald Viva magazine; reaching over 220,000 national readers. During the Mega World exhibition, we had 23,692 visitors through the gallery.

In the 2018/2019 Tauranga Art Gallery Toi Tauranga, in partnership with Seeds Trust, launched the new bi-annual Rydal Art Prize. This is New Zealand's newest art award with a specific focus on a contribution to contemporary painting. The Rydal Art Prize awards an artist \$20,000 for a work or body of work deemed to be outstanding in the field of painting over the prior two-year period. As a non-acquisitive award it celebrates the role that painting continues to play within our now varied field of artistic practice in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Recognising the contribution to current painting practice the winning artist is also invited to present a new solo exhibition at Tauranga Art Gallery in 2020.

A diverse range of established and emerging artists were short-listed by the judges to determine a unanimous winner. It has provided the opportunity for the jury and audiences to look closely at where experimentation, strength and difference might lie in one of the oldest artistic mediums. The winning artist for 2019 was Christina Pataialii with her exhibition titled Solid Gold shown at Te Tuhi, Auckland in 2018.

The Tauranga Art Gallery has objectives to encourage and undertake collaborations with various arts and related entities.

The Rooms exhibition was a very successful collaboration between The Elms Te Papa Tauranga and Tauranga Art Gallery. It brought to life the history of this significant site and family home through seven insightful artist projects. The exhibition was held from 4<sup>th</sup> August – 24<sup>th</sup> October 2018, and 2,318 visited during this time.

This was the first time in 15 years that the curated historical rooms changed, bringing back previous visitors as well as new. Andrew Gregg, Manager of The Elms, said it was a great opportunity for public to see significant tāonga from The Elms collection not seen in 15 years.

Significant Matariki exhibition programme featuring (BWE:) 'Blood Water Earth' by artist Louise Potiki Bryant and Canadian First Nations artist Santee Smith.

Other partnerships during this financial year were with TCC Libraries (Mātiro); Tauranga Zinefest; Te Uru/Auckland Arts Festival (Blood Water Earth), Ivan Anthony Gallery, Auckland; Te Tuhi (Rydal Art Prize, Seeds Trust); Toi Ohomai; Victoria University of NZ (Baseman).

We have a goal to undertake at least one exhibition which can tour to other galleries around the country.

This year TAG partnered with 2 national galleries with our touring shows “The 80s show” showing at the Tairāwhiti Museum, Gisborne with visitations of 3837 & “Whenu Hou” at Objectspace, Auckland with visitations of 1456.

## Financial and Governance

The Tauranga Art Gallery Trust owns the site, the gallery building, a collection of art works and other gallery assets. For the period under review the total revenue was \$1,539,874, higher than the previous year financial year by \$75,255. Expenses of \$2,094,416 (including depreciation and amortisation) were up on the last financial year largely due to the payment to Tauranga Art Gallery Foundation.

However, allowing for depreciation and amortization expense provisions of \$145,335, the net bottom line result was a \$554,542 deficit, comprising \$505,275 paid to Tauranga Art Gallery Foundation, the remaining \$49,267 deficit, the Board was able to fund costs from its own reserves. The gallery has no debt. Total equity at 30 June 2019 was reduced to \$9,842,867 due to the transfer of funds to the Foundation.

In March the Director introduced new budget management controls at an operational level and admissions charges were introduced to secure more revenue to help offset total costs.

The Tauranga Art Gallery Trust Board continue to draw on their collective experience, commercial expertise and their knowledge and passion for the arts; to ensure our regional community and visitors can enjoy and become engaged with exceptional world class art experiences. The Board continues to investigate and determine its best strategic options to future proof the gallery so that long term fiscal and operational capability is assured. Financial sustainability remains a key focus for the Board.

While key non-financial measures are trending well, success comes at a cost. The Board faces a continual challenge to balance the budget in the long term. Sound equity ensures the stability of the gallery in the medium term but not long term and the Board is investigating options for the long term sustainability.

We acknowledge the contributions made by Simon Clarke and Tina Harris-Ririnui who resigned from the Board during this financial year and we have welcomed Grant Neagle and Sylvia Willison as new trustees as at 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019.

### Appreciation

Special thanks to our former Director Karl Chitham and to all gallery staff who worked so professionally and diligently to deliver great art and visitor experiences throughout the year and to our new Director Alice Hutchison, who since February 2019 brought a greater level of internationalism as well as an increased focus to recognise, celebrate and share with our community the artistic talent of Tauranga and Western Bay of Plenty artists who are internationally praised for their works.

Thanks to my fellow trustees for their contributions and efforts during the 2018/2019 year.

The Friends of the Gallery are enthusiastic and wonderful supporters and volunteers. Their help, financial contributions, involvement in and support of all Gallery activities and functions is most sincerely appreciated.

The Trust Board is delighted to see established the independent Tauranga Art Gallery Foundation Trust, which seeks collaboration with and contributions from individuals and businesses, so the Foundation can support the Tauranga Art Gallery into the future.

The Trust greatly appreciates the continued support from its various funders, exhibition sponsors and supporters including our artists. Without their support we could have not provided the wonderful exhibitions and programmes that were part of the year in review. Your support means the Gallery team can continue to reach out and engage with our different communities and share with them the wonders of the creative world.

**Peter Anderson, Chairman, Tauranga Art Gallery Trust**