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## **New Judy Millar artwork commissioned for Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki**



Rhana Devenport, artist Judy Millar and chef Peter Gordon at *A Holy Palate*, Thursday 19 June 2016

New Zealand artist Judy Millar will create an ambitious site-specific installation for Auckland Art Gallery in early 2017.

The new commission was confirmed last night at the first annual appeal event for the Auckland Art Gallery Foundation, where more than \$100,000 was raised.

Auckland Art Gallery Director Rhana Devenport says proceeds will allow the Gallery to commission a dynamic new artwork by Judy Millar, a leading Auckland and Berlin based artist, for the Gallery's south atrium.

'We're thrilled about this new commission. Visitors will love it, it's going to transform the space.'

Devenport says funds raised through the Foundation's ongoing efforts will further support the work of the Gallery.

'Donations will contribute to building a strong legacy for future generations by supporting areas such as exhibitions, acquisitions, research, conservation and public engagement,' she says.

The appeal event, a Dada-inspired dinner titled *The Holy Palate*, was art directed by Millar with cuisine by chef Peter Gordon. This year's dinner marked the relaunch of the Auckland Art Gallery Foundation, a charitable trust, established to support the Gallery through the growth of an endowment fund.

Chair of the Foundation Andrew Smith says Auckland Art Gallery has been built on a history of generous giving, dating back to the 1880s.

‘The Foundation wishes to continue that tradition, knowing that the more support it can give to the Gallery, the more wonderful art experiences the Gallery can provide for the people of, and visitors to, Auckland,’ he says.

‘Philanthropic giving to the visual arts enables more people to experience the beauty and intellectual challenge provided by an artwork or an art exhibition and to enrich their lives by doing so.’

Artist Judy Millar says she is pleased to be inspiring philanthropic giving for the ongoing support of the Gallery’s future.

‘The Foundation is a fantastic charity helping to create opportunities for Auckland Art Gallery to carry on its work for generations to come,’ she says.

(ends)

## **Background**

The Auckland Art Gallery Foundation was established in 2008 with the purpose of raising funds to contribute to the Auckland Art Gallery capital campaign. Donations to the Foundation were pivotal to the Gallery’s building redevelopment, completed in 2011. The Foundation subsequently re-purposed its trust deed in order for it to continue to support the Gallery through the growth of an endowment fund. Going forward, donations will provide support to the Gallery in a range of areas, including: exhibitions, acquisitions, publications, research, conservation, learning and outreach programmes.

## **Judy Millar**

Judy Millar is one of New Zealand’s most internationally recognised artists. Since 2005 she has shared her time between Auckland and Berlin and has a significant reputation in Europe, which continues to gain momentum. Highlights of her career include two exhibitions at the Venice Biennale; representing New Zealand with her solo exhibition *Giraffe-Bottle-Gun* (2009); and Collateral Event *Time, Space, Existence* (2011); inclusion in Rohkunstbau, Berlin (2010) and solo exhibitions at the Auckland Art Gallery (2002) and the IMA, Brisbane (2013). Her paintings are held in all major public collections in New Zealand and in several international collections including the Kunstmuseum St Gallen and Tichy Foundation in Prague. Available monographs on her work include *You You Me Me* (Kerber Art, Germany, 2009), *Giraffe-Bottle Gun* (Kerber Art, Germany, 2009) and *Be Do Be Do Be Do* (IMA, Brisbane).

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