

# Easter 2002 - the fine art of raising the dead



Chrysalis Seed is looking forward to a series of arts events to be held loosely around the 2002 Easter season. While all these activities are diverse in theme and subject matter, the artists are linked by a common faith in Christ. Some events are produced independently with our assistance in the area of publicity; others are being presented by Chrysalis Seed. We hope there will be a lot of interest shown in these events! Further information will be available shortly, but in the meantime, please do contact us if you would like to know more. Look out for our brochures giving specific details about each event. Below is preliminary information about each event - we will keep you posted as more details become available.

Event	Description	Dates
Visual art exhibition - Canterbury Museum	Show by Darryn George, Mark Lander, Tim Croucher, Gareth Williams, David Cook	20 Mar - 8 April
Visual art exhibition - Salamander Gallery	Show by Kees Bruin, Jessica Crothall, Anne Fountain, Ben Lander, Jo O'Hara and Stefan Roberts.	25 Mar - 7 April
'Hautu' Southern Ballet Theatre	A play written by Kathleen Gallagher and produced by ReAct Theatre.	22-28 March
Installation - Opawa Baptist Church - 285 Wilsons Rd	Stations of the Cross. Peter & Joyce Majendie. A contemporary interpretation based on the ancient form of the Stations of the Cross, reworked as an interactive, mixed media, multi-sensory experience.	24-29 March
Forum Discussion Hurst Seager Room The Arts Centre	A panel discussion with Jonathan Mane-Wheoki, Kathleen Nicholls, Mike Riddell, and Kevin Ward. Theme: issues of art relating to spirituality. Individual lectures / presentations in afternoon, panel discussion in evening.	6 April
Puppet World	Family puppet/stick dance/mime event	5-6 April
Solo performance Southern Ballet Theatre	Peter Majendie. Story telling solo performance about the life of Vincent van Gogh as missionary.	5-6 April
Poetry Book Launch	Eclectic themes relating to response to life and the world. Peb Simmons, Kathleen Gallagher, Peter Crothall, John Weir, Jane Simpson, Eric Mould, John O'Connor and Jenny Barrer.	29 May



seven plus



chrysalis seed trust

## Who are Seven Plus?

We are a network of visual artists in Canterbury who meet to encourage each other in our art and faith. Most of us are established working artists, local to Canterbury. We represent various aspects of the art world: some are professional contemporary artists who exhibit locally, nationally and internationally; others work in commercial art and design, or teach. Others are currently studying art at local tertiary institutions. Included in our ranks are a network of art lovers who have a commitment to the vision of Seven Plus.

Seven Plus is one of the art networks under the umbrella of the Chrysalis Seed Trust which is a charitable trust under the auspices of Spreydon Baptist Community Services.

The mission of Chrysalis Seed Trust is to help resource the arts community from a Christian perspective.

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## Kia ora!

*I trust you are settling well into the new year. I had a quiet Summer holiday at home with a list of one thousand essential things to repair, transform or eradicate from my house and garden in two weeks. The unseasonal thunderstorms and huge cloudbursts reminded me of childhood camping holidays in the antique army tent my father dug up from somewhere. I'm sure in its prime the tent withstood the fiercest elements of the North African desert and enemy bombardment but by the 1960s it regularly fell apart at the mere mention of wind and rain. And while sowing up a tent in the pouring rain in the middle of the night is probably one of life's great character building experiences, I can honestly say I didn't miss camping once this summer!*

*A far more pleasant experience was working with four wonderful sculptors for our fifth Seven*

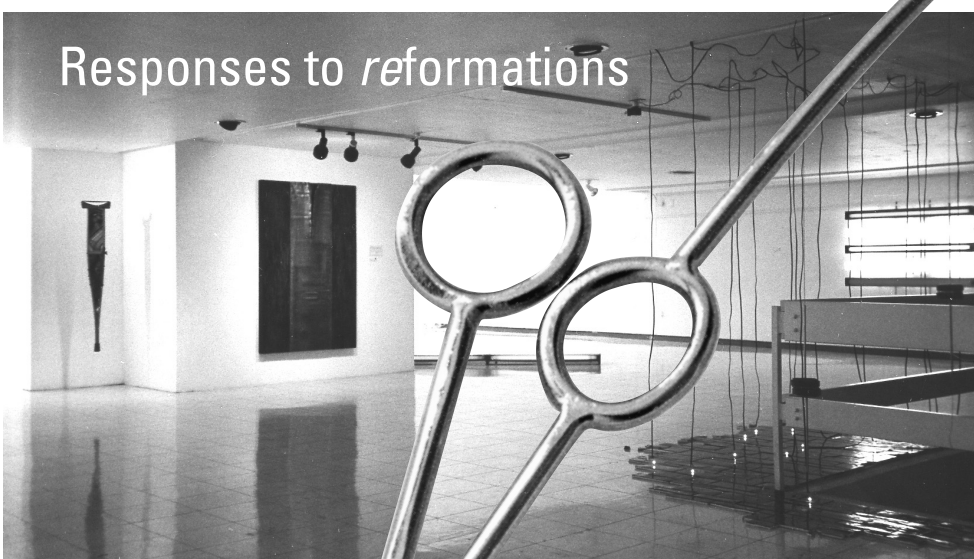
*Plus show, Reformations, which ran from 12 December - 6 January at the Centre of Contemporary Art. Rob d'Auvergne, Ben Lander, Kim Peters and Joshua Robbins produced some really interesting work and below we have printed some responses to the show.*

*Finally do mark your diaries for all the Easter arts events - it should be an exciting time.*

*God bless and arohanui!*

*Bridget Underhill*

***P.S. As mentioned in our previous newsletter this is the last free edition of Seven Plus News. You will need to join Friends of Chrysalis Seed Trust to continue to receive this newsletter and the other Friends benefits. See enclosure for more information.***



'Glyph 1: crack your nuts with surgical precision' by Rob d'Auvergne

## Responses to reformations

### Jonathan Mane-Wheoki

*Dean of Music and Fine Arts and Senior Lecturer in Art History, University of Canterbury.*

*'I made a special point of visiting the [Seven Plus] exhibition at CoCA yesterday and I must say I was surprised and delighted by its strengths. It was encouraging to see that artists who profess the Christian faith were able to engage imaginatively and searchingly with such a variety of creative processes and practices without wearing their faith on their sleeves. Other Christian artists might have resorted to yukky sanctimoniousness and creepy sentimentality. Not this lot! It was great to be able to come away from the exhibition thinking, not, 'This stuff is so-o-o obvious,' but 'This is interesting, thoughtful art - and it was made by Christians! Congratulations to all concerned.'*

**Warren Feeney** - *Director of Centre of Contemporary Art.*

*'Reformations was an exhibition informed and pervaded by tactile surfaces and vigorously treated materials. It was a group show that*

*celebrated the diverse practice of its participants and drew upon such differences in a manner that strengthened the exhibition as a collective experience. This was evident in the way in which smooth metal surfaces were set against organic and weathered wood, or elegant and elongated forms were placed adjacent to thick robust surfaces. I liked the show for the reasons already outlined and I also agree with Jonathan's comments. Too often Christian art is highly narrative, and lacks the capacity to be subtle, allowing for complex or more open ended readings. Seven Plus clearly avoided such difficulties and constructed an exhibition that engaged the gallery visitor on numerous levels.'*

**Kate Spencer** - *arts advocate - artists.co.nz*

*'Members of Seven Plus continue to deliver an intriguing group show. This time four sculptors complemented each other by combining material elements to create a surrealistic effect. I particularly enjoyed those works which achieved the implication of realism with a twist.'*



## Letters to the Editor

Dear Bridget,

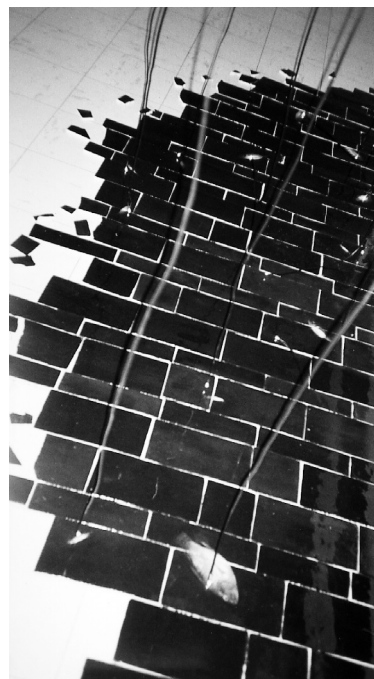
I was amused by Ruth Unger's review of Calvin Seerveld's A Christian Critique of Art and Literature in your November edition of Seven Plus. Ruth is quite right that Seerveld has got a lot of very good things to say, but sadly his style of writing often puts off the very people who should be reading him. With this in mind, I thought your readers might like to know about a more recent book by Seerveld called *Bearing fresh olive leaves: alternative steps in understanding art* (Carlisle: Piquant, 2000). This is a set of six lectures by Seerveld which were translated into something more like plain English by my good self as my gift to humanity for that year. This was done in conjunction with the author, who okayed the final version. Seerveld is well worth reading for his refreshing approach to basic questions of understanding art, and the role of the Christian artist. His emphasis that the Christian artist is, like any Christian, here to serve his neighbour is an excellent starting point for discussing the role of the artist: it cuts through much of the traditional debate about genius, inspiration, and the Romantic role of the artist as prophet. It also helps to focus the minds of artists on the particular audiences they can realistically address, rather than worrying about addressing humanity in general.



'Strength in Weakness' by Kim Peters



'Speed Lines' by Joshua Robbins



'Exodus Series #2' by Ben Lander

He is also very strong on the need for artists who are Christians to band together for mutual support, encouragement and critique, just as Chrysalis Seed seems to be doing.

Seerveld is an aesthete by training, but if that makes him sound rather abstruse, he is not. Coming from a Dutch Reformed background, his theology is very earthy, and his approach to questions in art puts theory into practice. He locates art in the pattern of God's creation, and argues fervently for its proper place in the redemption of creation, bringing things back under the rule of Christ, and offering signs of hope to neighbours in a fallen world. He insists that all art, being the work of human beings, has a spirit which is either submissive to Christ or rebellious against him. It is an interesting diagnostic tool in approaching the work of, say, Dali or Mondrian, as he does.

With warm greetings in the Lord,  
Nigel Halliday

[Nigel Halliday is a freelance art historian who studied art history at Cambridge, before completing an MA and PhD at the Courtauld Institute in London.

The Chrysalis Seed Art and Faith Resource Centre has copies of Seerveld's *Rainbows for the Fallen World*, *The Song of Moses and the Lamb*, *On Being Human: Imaging God in the Modern World*, *Bearing fresh olive leaves: alternative steps in understanding art*, *Fields of the Lord* and *Pledges of Jubilee: Essays on the Arts and Culture, in Honor of Calvin G. Seerveld*.]

## News of Chrysalis Seed members and friends

On 24 November **Don Binney** gave a captivating address to Seven Plus members at S.Michael's Church Lounge. **Carol Spain** commented afterwards: 'I loved the way we could all have an open discussion. Don was very good in allowing everyone to share their views which was very upbuilding. Seeing everyone's work was inspiring and made me feel less alone when people talk about their work. Don's story triggered inspiration and discussion.'

**Re Act Theatre** successfully produced the fascinating and thought-provoking play 'God and Stephen Hawking' by Robin Hawdon in November. Congratulations to **Lesley and Bernard McMillan**, and all the cast and production crew.

**Kathleen Gallagher's** launch of her poetry anthology *Twilight Burns the Sky* on 30 November was a most memorable evening of Irish dancing, chamber music, impromptu singing, poetry reading and wonderful Gallagher hospitality.

**Peter and Joyce Majendie's** installation, *A Christmas Journey*, held at Opawa Baptist Church from 17-24 December, provided a special opportunity to contemplate aspects of the Christmas story while walking through a pathway based on the St Paul's labyrinth.

**Carol Spain** has successfully completed a Certificate of Church Embroidery through the New Zealand Embroiderers Guild and in January attended the Raglan Summer School of Art where she worked on silk painting and textile creation drawing on dreams and symbols.

**Alan McLean** was recently part of a group show at Under the Red Verandah.

Various Seven Plus members were represented in the CoCA Members Christmas show, 'Less is more Moreorless'.

**Jinji Koyama** recently held a show of photographic images and a series of slide projections at the Christchurch Family Court. This is the first time the Courts have housed an art exhibition. Courts Manager, Stuart White, admitted that he was skeptical about mounting an exhibition in the normally austere legal environment. 'Then something told me that this would work. By displaying these art works in public areas, a certain mystique is removed. The reaction from the public, lawyers, and judges has been tremendously supportive. People are talking about these images.' [Courtesy of The Press December 19, 2001]

**Stefan Roberts** exhibited at the Pukeko Junction Gallery in Leithfield in December and has photographs exhibited in 'Summer Hanging' at Grantham Galleries in Auckland, 29 Jan-3 Mar.

## Awards and Residencies

**Artists on Ice.** Applications for this programme are invited by the New Zealand Antarctic Institute. The programme provides for artists to spend up to two weeks in Antarctica. Applications close on March 1, 2002. Contact: ph.358 0207

**Norsewear Art Award 2002.** Three categories: ceramics and glass; textile art; and painting. Winners will receive \$5000 and there will be six merit awards to the value of \$1000 each. There is an entry fee of \$25 and work must have been executed since February 2001. Applications close March 1, 2002. Contact: Norsewear Art Award, PO Box 37, Waipukurau. Ph.06 858 9669 Email: lesley\_taylor@xtra.co.nz www.norsewearart.co.nz

**Humanitad**, a non-profit organisation based in London, is looking to construct a Monument to Mankind during 2002. A sculptor from each of the world's 192 countries will be commissioned to create the monument from 192 sandstone blocks. Applications close March 15, 2002. Contact: www.humanitad.org.

New Zealand Poetry Society Inc, in Association with Asia 2000. **International Poetry Competition 2002.** Three sections: Open; Haiku and Junior Haiku. Applications close: March 15, 2002. Contact: Email tony.chad@clear.net.nz

**Yellow Pages Arts Scholarship and Yellow Pages Arts Charity Auction.** This Scholarship offers artists the opportunity to have their work showcased on a high profile canvas - 309,000 copies of the Christchurch Telephone Book cover. All artworks are eligible for inclusion in the Yellow Pages Arts Charity Auction. Proceeds from the auction will go to a New Zealand charity to be announced in 2002. Scholarship applications close: March 29. Entry forms are available from local art galleries and libraries and can also be obtained by calling 0800 104 509.

**AMP Scholarships available to artists.** AMP is offering ten one-year scholarships worth up to \$5000 and up to two premium scholarships worth up to \$20,000 over two years. Applications close on 30 April and application packs are available by calling 0800 AMP GO4IT (0800 26 74 64) or from the AMP website www.amp.co.nz.

**NCC New Zealand Art Awards.** Sculpture, ceramics, works on paper for Artworks in Secondary Materials. Submitted artworks must be made up of at least 80% reclaimed or re-used materials. \$7500 first prize and four merit awards of \$1000 each. Applications close 29 May, 2002. Contact Ph.365 3829. Email: pro.arts@netaccess.co.nz

**Past/Presence.** The Historic Places Trust and High Street Project invite artists to submit proposals for exhibitions in a variety of historic places located throughout the South Island. Contact: Ph. 366 5363 Email: highst@ihug.co.nz

**The AIR-Vallauris Association** has created an artist in residence program for the 2002 Season at Nice-Vallauris, France. www.air-vallauris.com, email Stephany@air-vallauris.com

## Upcoming events

### NEXT SEVEN PLUS EVENT

**"Websites" 2-4pm Sunday 24 February 2002**  
**St. Michael's Parish Lounge, Cnr. Oxford Tce, Lichfield and Durham Sts (park in school grounds).**  
**Kate Spencer will speak about websites and how artists can link into artists.co.nz and Mark Lander will discuss how the internet has helped his art career.**

**CS Book Club** will be meeting monthly on every fourth Saturday this year. The first meeting will begin at 12.30pm 23 February at the Chrysalis Seed Art and Faith Resource Centre. The aim of the Book Club is to explore and use the unique collection of CS resources (books, videos, art and poetry periodicals etc). This year the Book Club will continue discussing how to relate our faith to art (practice and appreciation) and also to consider the use of fantasy/imagination in the arts. All are welcome. Please contact Mike Palmers tel: 389 1898 or e-mail: palmers@cyberxpress.co.nz

**Artists in Business.** A new series of gatherings has started. This group is really for anyone who is in business as an artist (any discipline) in any sense (part time/full time). We plan to meet at least monthly and aim to connect informally on art/business/faith issues. Enquiries ph Peter/Jessica 366 2848.

**The AGM of the Christchurch Arts Council** is at 5.15pm February 27 at Committee room #3 at the Christchurch City Council in Tuam Street. All are welcome to attend and have their names put forward for election to the new Board. New members are welcome.

**Jen Long** from **Rosslyn Gallery** in Dunedin is looking for new artists interested in selling work through this gallery. Terms are as follows: Artists price their own work and the gallery adds 33 1/3rd% +GST. Artists can contact Jen direct for further information. Email: "Jen and Dan" D.Long@xtra.co.nz.

**Soul Outpost.** Jen Long writes: 'The new subgroup of Soul Outpost will be running the Easter Art Installation again this year at the Community Gallery in Princess St Dunedin. It would be great if any of you wanted to exhibit again this year. The exhibition will run for the week leading up to Easter. Open Easter theme. All media including poetry and sculpture welcome. We don't usually sell work at the Community Gallery because it then costs us extra to hire the space. In the past people interested in buying works have left their details with me and I've passed that on to the artists. This year of course, we are able to sell works through the gallery who will sponsor the event. So you can contribute work either for viewing only or for sale. Please supply details of costs etc for works you wish to sell. It would probably be worth organising a joint transport effort to get works to Dunedin!'

**Josh Robbins** would be interested in sharing a workshop space for sculptors. Contact him at 365 2011.