

# Courtenay Place Park Light Box Project



The Courtenay Place light boxes offer an intense, high profile, public exhibition venue with a backdrop of buildings, buses and trees rather than white walls. The light boxes present

a unique public forum for the display of art and provide an alternative opportunity for curators and artists who want to exhibit work in a dynamic and challenging context.

## Light Box exhibition programme

The Light Box exhibition programme includes two – three curated exhibitions per year – each lasting four –six months. The boxes may be used for shorter periods for exhibitions that coincide with festivals or other events/ activities in the city. The only mandate for the light boxes is that they are used for art displays only.

## Specifications

- The light boxes are positioned along the edge of Courtenay Place Park, Wellington.
- The eight (double-sided) light boxes each measure 3m high and 1.2 m wide.
- They are constructed from cor-ten steel, glass, and LED (light-emitting diode).
- Each artwork is credited with the artist's name, title of work and date of creation in a label holder on the edge of each light box.
- Additional information such as a curator's essay or statement is available on the City Council website, and a link to this information is included on the label.
- Please note that because of weather conditions etc, images will be unusable once exhibitions are finished and will be destroyed.



## Submitting a proposal

Arts organisations, institutions and freelance curators are invited to submit exhibition proposals. Only proposals for curated exhibitions will be considered. We require a written proposal (up to two pages) that includes:

- proposed exhibition concept and objectives
- a description of the work to be exhibited
- how the work will relate to the site and engage audiences
- information on the participating artist(s) (including CVs)
- samples of the artist(s) work.

## Selection

Wellington City Council's Public Art Panel assists with the selection of curatorial proposals from arts organisations or freelance curators and reviews and comments on the proposed artwork. The Public Art Panel looks for proposals that:

- explore and present new artistic practices that engage in various ways with the physical character, history, culture and social meaning of public space.
- seek to engage with specific cultures and communities and their histories – to encourage deeper understanding of Wellington's rich and diverse cultural heritage and contemporary makeup.
- promote a new understanding of public art, and in doing so initiate debate and discourse about the direction of art in the city.

## Funding

The Public Art Fund is used to cover the costs associated with up to three exhibitions per year – up to a maximum of \$30000 a year (\$10000 per exhibition). This fund may be used for:

- curator/artist's fee
- digital reproductions of work
- proofs and printing
- installation/removal of work
- marketing and publicity
- documentation.

## Further information

If you have any questions about the light boxes or you would like to put forward an exhibition proposal, please contact the City Council's Arts Advisor by emailing [arts@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:arts@wcc.govt.nz) or calling 499 4444.



## Previous exhibitions

### *Marie Shannon: Love Notes (2005)*

19 June–19 December 2009

Curated by Heather Galbraith, City Gallery Wellington

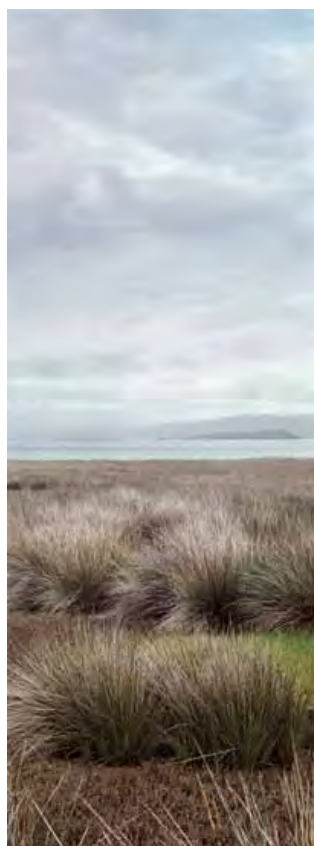
Sixteen private hand-written notes offer an unexpectedly intimate encounter within this large-scale public display. Marie Shannon's *Love Notes (2005)* are a series of notes expressing love through various short-hand jottings, acronyms and more elaborate drawn compositions. Shannon's photographs present tangible evidence of seemingly anonymous intimacy.

### *Give us a sign*

17 December 2008–14 June 2009

Curated by Heather Galbraith, City Gallery Wellington

While illuminated light boxes have become common currency within art galleries over the last 20 years or so, they have long been familiar in public space for commercial advertising or public service announcements.



The *Give us a sign* project firmly acknowledged this context. This project did not aim to sell products, but rather offer a platform for ideas within a busy retail and entertainment district. Seven artists and/or graphic designers were invited to each contribute two or three works responding to the call to 'Give us a sign – a message, a proclamation, a warning, a proposition; a way to make things better'.

### *Flânerie and Figments*

May–December 2008

Curated by Andy Palmer and Simon Bush-King

The inaugural light box exhibition – *Flânerie and Figments* – featured 16 contemporary photographs inspired by Wellington's urban condition. Works by Wellington artists – Andy Palmer, John Lake, Victoria Birkinshaw, Shaun Lawson, Amelia Handscomb, Steve Rowe, Jessica Silk and Clare Noonan – reflect different photographic techniques and approaches.



Images from previous Courtenay Place Park light box exhibitions, from left to right: Claire Noonan, *Shoreline 2*, 2008 (*Flânerie and Figments*, 2008); Gavin Hipkins, *Bible Studies (Sea)*, 2008; Stanley Nives, *Too much too soon too little too late*, 2008 (both *Give us a sign*, 2008–9)