

Eve Armstrong

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EVE ARMSTRONG

Born 1978 in New Zealand

Lives and works in Wellington, New Zealand

Eve Armstrong works by extending, adapting, assisting, and facilitating exchanges of form and value. Armstrong operates these systems across various modes of practice, each differing slightly in expected formal outcome, yet with a recurring emphasis on transactional and functional processes. This underlying conceptual and operative framework provides the key to Armstrong's ways of thinking and making. Armstrong describes her work as 'adaptable support structures' – layers, cycles and flows modeled on rudimentary trade: needing and finding; this goes with that; that props up this, things go up, things go down.

Armstrong's work is deceptively formal, yet hers is a formalism related to the materiality and function of each work's constituent elements. There is a considered emphasis on colour, shape, location, expected and anticipated social engagement, and effects on the overall desire for an energetic mode of working which appears to lack aesthetic intent, but allows for the impacts of formalism.

Armstrong's practice tends to fall uneasily between the formal, the relational and the environmental. Her work is of the unwanted surpluses of urban environments, but it seems to have no position on that, nor does it appear to offer any solutions. Instead, Armstrong's focus is on taking an otherwise unwanted object or resource and adapting it – extending or adding to its physical as well as formal functionality. What have become her signature materials - flattened cardboard, packing tape, and disowned property - recur not only for their physical and aesthetic functions, but for their ready availability and subsequent ability to sink back into the world.

Armstrong graduated from Auckland's Elam School of Fine Arts in 2003, and in 2006 was an inaugural recipient of the Arts Foundation of New Zealand New Generation Award. Eve has made solo projects within many international exhibitions, including The woods that see and hear (2010), the 3rd Auckland Triennial (2007), the Busan Biennale (2006), the SCAPE Art & Industry Biennial (2006), and held a major solo exhibition at Artspace Auckland in 2005-2006. In 2013 Eve presented the first in her five year series of artist projects commissioned by the Dowse Art Museum.

EDUCATION

2001-2003

Bachelor of Fine Arts, Elam School of Fine Arts, University of Auckland, New Zealand

1999-2001

Diploma in Visual Arts, Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology, Nelson, New Zealand

AWARDS & RESIDENCIES

2009

Artist in Residence, McCahon House, Titirangi

2008

Artist in Residence, Asia New Zealand Foundation/AiR Association Limited Hong Kong

2006

Arts Foundation of New Zealand New Generation Award

2005

Artist in Residence, Enjoy Public Art Gallery, Wellington, New Zealand

2003

Senior Scholarship in Fine Arts, Elam School of Fine Arts, University of Auckland, New Zealand

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

2017

Trading Table, Spring 1883, Sydney (an artfair project)
China and Hardware, Dunedin Public Art Gallery (solo)
Growing Demand, Dunedin Public Art Gallery (solo)

2016

Trading Table, Auckland Art Fair (solo)

2013

Rise, The Dowse Art Museum, Lower Hutt (solo)
Eve Armstrong, 30 Upstairs, Wellington (solo)

2012

Raised Voices, Calder and Lawson Gallery, Hamilton, New Zealand, (group)
Letter to Alice May Williams, Michael Lett, Auckland, New Zealand (group)

2011

Prospect: New Zealand Art Now, City Gallery, Wellington (group)
Making Arrangements, Eve Armstrong and Gretchen Albrecht, Michael Lett, Auckland

2010

The woods that see and hear, Dertien Hectare, Netherlands (group)
After, The Physics Room, Christchurch (solo)

2009

Second Life, Pataka & Wanganui (group)
Outlet, McCahon House (solo)
Open Window, Govett Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth (solo)

2008

Jacqueline Fraser and Eve Armstrong, Michael Lett, Auckland, New Zealand (two person)
Lost and Found: Tarrawarra Biennial, Tarrawarra Museum of Art (solo presentation)
Group Show, 1301PE, Los Angeles, United States of America (group)

2007

Dressed & Shaken, Michael Lett, Auckland (solo exhibition)
Hunch, Contemporary Projects, City Gallery Wellington, New Zealand (group)
Turbulence, 3rd Auckland Triennial, Auckland, New Zealand (solo project)
Comfort Zone and Reading Room, Te Tuhi Centre for The Arts, Auckland, New Zealand (solo exhibition / collaborative project)
Group Show!, Michael Lett, Auckland (group)
Michael Lett stand, Auckland Art Fair, Auckland New Zealand (solo project)

2006

Michael Lett, Wellington, New Zealand (group)
SLIPs: Small Local Improvement Projects Enjoy Public Art Gallery, Wellington, New Zealand (solo)
ROAM, Artspace, Auckland New Zealand (solo)
Don't Misbehave, SCAPE Biennial of Art in Public Space, Christchurch, New Zealand (solo project)
A Tale of Two Cities: Busan-Seoul/Seoul-Busan, Busan Biennale, Busan, Republic of Korea (group)
Fifteen People Present Their Favourite Book, Special Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand (group)

2005

Duets, rm103, Auckland, New Zealand (group)
Likes The Outdoors, Ramp Gallery, Hamilton, New Zealand (group)

2004

Book Bonanza, rm103, Auckland New Zealand (solo)
Twelve Days of Christmas, Anna Miles Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand (group)
Artspace Editions, Artspace, Auckland, New Zealand (group)
The Bed You Lie In, Artspace, Auckland, New Zealand (group)
Shop103, Enjoy Public Art Gallery, Wellington, New Zealand (group)
Relay, Canary Gallery, Auckland New Zealand (group)
Resistance Through Rituals, Westspace, Melbourne, Australia (group)
Public/Private, 2nd Auckland Triennial, The Auckland Project with Louisa Bufardeci, George Fraser Gallery, Auckland New Zealand
Duets, Ramp Gallery, Hamilton, New Zealand (group)
Ruthless, Anna Miles Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand (group)

2003

Shop One Zero Three, rm103, Auckland, New Zealand (group)
Elam Graduate Exhibition, Elam School of Fine Arts, University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand (solo project)
Picture, George Fraser Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand (group)
Bermuda Triangle, George Fraser Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand (group)
The Habitat Project, rm 103, Auckland, New Zealand (collaboration with Gaelen McDonald)
Fast, Elam Sculpture Show, Canterbury Arcade, Auckland, New Zealand (group)
A4 Work Exchange, curated by Karin Sander, Kunsthochschule Berlin – Wiessensee, Berlin, Germany (group)

2002

Toilet Home, Elam School of Fine Arts, University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand, (collaborative project with Gaelen McDonald)
Tight, Elam Sculpture Show, rm104, Auckland, New Zealand (group)

2001

911, Elam Sculpture Show, 911 Dominion Road, Auckland, New Zealand (group)

2000

The Process of Breaking, Gallery 203, Nelson New Zealand (solo)

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Brian Butler, 'Eve Armstrong' Speculation, Venice Project, 2007
Natasha Conland, 'What's For Profit', Object Magazine, August 2007, Issue 53, pp. 32-35
Victoria Lynn, 'Eve Armstrong' Turbulence, 3rd Auckland Triennial (Exhib. Pub.) March 2007, pp. 52-53
Virginia Were, 'Beautiful Collision', Art News New Zealand, Autumn 2007, (profile), pp. 54-56
Andrew Paul Wood, 'Invading Your Space', New Zealand Listener, November 2006, vol 206, #3469, p.46
Jessica Reid, 'Eve Armstrong', Don't Misbehave, Scape 2006, (Exhib. Pub), September 2006, pp. 16-19
Sue Gardiner, 'Everyone Is An Artist', Art News New Zealand, May 2006, pp.74-79
Tessa Laird, 'Inorganic