

# RICHARD LEWER

## CURRICULUM VITAE

### ARTIST OVERVIEW

Richard Lewer was born in Hamilton in 1971. He exhibits regularly in New Zealand and Australia and is known for his delicately beautiful drawings, which evocatively rework some of life's less pleasant elements—crime scenes, illness, horror movies. The work is accessible, familiar, with a critical edge that probes what is beautiful and sinister about our society without injecting a moralizing tone or political message. Lewer's focus is, however, less concerned with telling the concrete facts of a case instead his work explores the way that places can become repositories for the psychic residue of both painful events and our deepest fears.

### SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

- 2010            *10-4: New York Stories*. Solo Show. OREXART, Melbourne Art Fair.  
*You Can't Win 'Em All*. Solo Show. OREXART, Auckland  
*I must learn to like Myself*. Survey Show, Waikato Museum, Hamilton Feb/Aug  
Basil Sellers Art Prize Finalist, Melbourne  
Melbourne Art Fair / OREXART Solo presentation.  
Wallace Award New York Studio
- 2009            Auckland Art Fair 'Confessions'. Orex Gallery, Confessions, Prayer Book Drawings  
*Nobody likes a show-off*. Monash Museum of Art, Solo survey show curated Max Delaney  
Solo show, Hugo Mitchell Gallery Adelaide  
I walk the line. New Australian Drawing. Museum Contemporary Art Sydney. Wall drawing.
- 2008            Wallace Awards, Supreme Winner,  
McCahon Residency, Titirangi.  
Orexart Solo show 14 Stations and Titirangi Weather and Waitakere Crimes  
Ian Potter Museum of Art, *Basil Sellers Art Prize*, Melbourne  
64zero3, *Group Drawing Exhibition*, Christchurch  
Fremantle Arts Centre, *Bon Scott Project*, Fremantle  
Block Projects Solo Exhibition, *True Stories – Australian Crime*, Melbourne  
  
Orexart Solo Exhibition, *As I stepped out into the bright sunlight*, Auckland  
Sophie Gannon Gallery Group Exhibition, *Crime Lines*, Melbourne  
King Street Gallery Group Exhibition, *Other Worlds*, drawing & mixed media from New Zealand artists curated by  
Glen Barkley, Sydney  
Damian Minton Gallery Group Exhibition, Sydney  
National Art School (NAS) Gallery Solo Exhibition, *It's starts as an idle thought and grows into an obsession*, Wall  
and AO-sized Drawings, Sydney  
Conical Inc Upstairs Group Exhibition, *Bracket Creep – A Projected Committee*, Melbourne  
VCA Gallery, *Zonal Marx* Group Drawing Exhibition, *Wall Drawing - Don't Look at Me...*, Melbourne  
  
Westspace Group Exhibition, *Reunion - A4 Art 2006*, Melbourne  
Te Tuhi Public Art Gallery, *Keep your friends close...*, *Wall Drawing*, Auckland  
Orex Gallery Solo Exhibition, *Get Well*, Auckland  
Canberra Contemporary Art Centre Group Exhibition, *Someone shows something to someone*, Canberra  
Ian Potter Museum of Art Group Exhibition, *Game on! Sport and contemporary art*, Melbourne  
Boutwell Draper Gallery Group Exhibition, *Who Care's*, Sydney  
Sarjeant Gallery Group Exhibition, *Commodity and Delight - Views of Home*, Wanganui  
  
Ocular Lab Exhibition Group Exhibition, *Untitled Situation*, Melbourne  
Physics Room Group Exhibition, *Final Product*, Christchurch  
Mark Hutchins Gallery Solo Exhibition, *It Used to be So Good*, Wellington  
  
Enjoy Project Space Solo Exhibition, *In Between*, Wellington  
Orex Gallery Solo Exhibition, *Impending Doom*, Auckland  
The Physics Room Group Exhibition, *Rear Window*, Christchurch  
  
Orex Gallery Solo Exhibition, *Hits and Memories*, Auckland

Adam Art Gallery Group Exhibition, *Practice*, Wellington  
 Govett Brewster Public Art Gallery Group Exhibition, *Break*, New Plymouth

Exhibition, Oedipus Rex Gallery, Auckland  
 Melbourne International Art Fair, Exhibition Buildings, Melbourne

Group Exhibition, *Messy Boys*, ASA Gallery, Auckland  
 Curator & Artist, *Adrift – Nomadic New Zealand Art*, Group Exhibition, Conical Gallery, Melbourne

Curator & Director, The Promoter Drawing Exhibition, Auckland  
 Solo Exhibition, Oedipus Rex Gallery, Auckland  
 Solo Exhibition, Janne Land Gallery, Wellington

Group Show, Renard Wardell Gallery, Melbourne  
 International Art Fair, Exhibition Buildings, Melbourne  
 Solo Exhibition, Janne Land Gallery, Wellington  
 Solo Exhibition, Oedipus Rex Gallery, Auckland

## EDUCATION

2000 Victoria College of the Arts, University of Melbourne  
 • *Master of Visual Arts*

1989-1992 Elam School of Fine Art, Auckland University  
 • *Bachelor of Fine Art*

## AWARDS/ COMMISSIONS/ GRANTS

2008 Winner, Wallace Art Paramount Award, Auckland  
 Finalist, Basil Sellers Art Prize, Ian Potter Museum of Art, Melbourne

2007 Arts Victoria Development Grant – Creation  
 Joint Winner 2D, Norsewear Art Award, Hastings

2006 Winner, National Painting and Printmaking Award, WSA, Hamilton  
 Runner Up, Wallace Art Award, Auckland

2005 Merit Award, Inaugural National Drawing Exhibition, New Zealand

2004 Finalist, Wallace Art Awards, Auckland  
 Finalist, Waikato Contemporary Art Award, Hamilton

2003 Arts Victoria Travel Grant

2000 VCA, University of Melbourne – Scholarship  
 Finalist, VISA Gold/ Wallace Art Award, Auckland

1999 Finalist, VISA Gold/ Wallace Art Award, Auckland

1998 Finalist, Wallace Art Award, Auckland

1997 Winner, Cranleigh Barton Drawing Award, Robert McDougall Gallery, ChCh

1996 Billboard Project, Auckland - Award: Billboard of the Year  
 Turoa Art Award – Premier Art Award, Turoa

1994 Elam Art Scholarship, University of Auckland

1992 Nola Holmwood Award – ASA, Auckland  
 Bledisloe Medal for Landscape

1991 Senior Prize, Fine Arts, Elam School of Fine Art

## VIDEO/ TELEVISION

2007 “Basil Sellers Art Award - Artist Profile”, Sunday Arts, ABC, 30/9/07  
 “The Committee”, Northside Boxing Club, Melbourne, Committee Meeting on DVD, 3/07  
 “Wall Drawing – Don’t Look at Me....”, Wall drawing in time lapse on DVD, 2/07

2006 “Artist Profile – Richard Lewer”, documentary, ABC, future screening 2007-08  
 “Skill, Discipline, Training”, animation on DVD, 1/06

2005 “In Between”, Animation Screening, Wellington International Film Festival (6/05)

2004 “In Between”, DVD of three animations by Richard Lewer, 11/04

2001 “Fista Cuffs”, a documentary by Michael Metzner, Snapper Screens, 8/01  
 “Adrift Exhibition-Boxing”, *Coast to Coast*, ABC, 26/8/01

1996 “Aluminium Art”, Nightline TV3, 12/11/96  
 “Richard Lewer: Works in Progress”, 23 min VHS, Mike Smale, Producer

## RESIDENCIES

**AIR, Colin McCahon Residency, Titirangi, New Zealand  
August-November 2008**

**AIR, Gertrude Contemporary Art Spaces (GCAS), Melbourne, Australia  
2008-2010 – Artist Studio at GCAS for 2 years**

**AIR, VCA Drawing Department, Melbourne, Australia  
February-March 2007 – The Cage Studio in the Drawing Department**

- To provide VCA undergraduate and postgraduate drawing students access to a professional artist and his/her studio work process.
- To mentor students through personal tutorials
- Opportunity for the Artist to research and undertake a project.

**AIR, St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne, Australia  
February-October 2006 - Artist Studio in hospital for 9 months**

- Artist had studio space in the hospital for nine months
- The hospital facilitates AIR's access to library, archives, security, staff and patients
- Artist contributes a work to the hospital research and educational wing
- Opportunity for the Artist to create a major body of work

**AIR, Victorian Institute of Sports (VIS), Melbourne, Australia  
March-September 2005 - Position one day a week**

- Object to liaise with coaches and athletes to provide creative input into training program.
- Opportunity for the Artist to observe and document athletes training.

**AIR, UCOL, Wanganui, New Zealand  
March-June 2004 – February-June 2004**

- Enable UCOL Art and Design students, local artists and the wider community in Wanganui to share the knowledge, ideas and work processes of a professional artist living and working between New Zealand and Australia.
- To mentor undergraduate students in painting and drawing departments
- Opportunity for the Artist to create a major body of work.

## COLLECTIONS

National Gallery of Victoria  
Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa  
Waikato Museum Collection  
Monash University Museum of Art (MUMA)  
University of Auckland  
University of Waikato  
Victoria University  
Waikato Art Society  
The James Wallace Trust  
Art Bank Collection  
Coopers & Lybrand  
Chapman Tripp Sheffield Young Coopers & Lybrand  
The ASA Collection  
Broke Art Collection  
Art & Text Collection  
The Drawings Syndicate  
Ken and Lisa Fehily Collection  
Wendy Foard and Peter Bate Collection

## SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2007                    "*Richard Lewer*", Sam Leach, Artist Profile, Summer 2007  
                          "*It's more than a game*", Dan Chappell, Art News New Zealand, Autumn 07
- 2006                    "*A shocking show*", Andrea Jutson, The Aucklander, AKL, 8/02/07  
                          "*Stark truth found in suffering*", T.J. McNamara, New Zealand Herald, AKL, 22/11/06  
                          "*Following clues to the mystery*", Mark Amery, Dominion, WGTM, 30/6/06
- 2005                    "*It Used to be so Good*", R. Forde, Exhibition Catalogue, WGTM, 6/05/05

- "Thriller", A.P. Wood, New Zealand Listener, Vol 199 No 3405, 13-19/8/05
- 2004 "Resident Evil", D. Rainforth, Issue 113, p66-69, Art New Zealand, 11/04  
 "An Expatriate: Richard Lewer", Adam Art Gallery, WGTN, 4/11/04  
 "In Between", Enjoy Project Space, WGTN, 3/11/04  
 "Exorcising the Demons", Linda Herrick, Canvas, New Zealand Herald, AKL, 23/10/04
- 2003 "Dealers name rising artists and stars", J. Daly-Peoples, NBR, 14/11/03  
 "Burning Bright in the Mind", T.J. McNamara, New Zealand Herald, AKL, 12/06/03  
 "Skin", T. Rodwell, PULP Magazine, NZ, Autumn 2003
- 2002 "A Particular Life...", T.J. McNamara, New Zealand Herald, AKL, 11/2/02
- 2001 "Adrift", Vin Ryan, Art New Zealand, Summer 2001  
 "No Rash Lewer Decision", Howard Leigh, The Fist, Vol 13, November 2001  
 "Spaces", Daniel Parker, Real Time, 1/10/01  
 "Adrift – Nomadic New Zealand Art", Robert Nelson, The Age, 11/8/01  
 "The trans Tasman art shuffle" Sue Gardiner, Art News New Zealand, pp 50-53, Winter 2001
- 2000 "Exhibited works challenge...", Mark Hotton, Otago Daily Times, 7/8/00  
 "Artist examines identity issues", Nicola Mutch, Otago Daily Times, 10/8/00
- 1998 "Prolific Lewer...", Peter Simpson, Sunday Star Times, AKL, F5 29/11/98  
 "Transparency...", T.J. McNamara, NZ Herald, AKL, H8 5/12/98  
 "Expatriate artist...", Megan Lane, the Evening Post, WGTN, p22 21/10/98  
 "Heavy Metal Artist...", David Famularo, The Dominion, WGTN, 30/10/98
- 1997 "Chaos Contained: The Art of Richard Lewer", Peter Simpson, Art NZ, Issue 88  
 "Adolescent Images...", Jackie Clark, Sunday Star Times, AKL, F6, 30/11/97  
 100 New Zealand Artists, Warwick Brown, Godwit Press, p45, Second Edition
- 1996 "Red Letter Day", Jacqueline Haydn, Sunday Star Times, F2, 10/11/96  
 "Exhibition from Hell", T.J. McNamara, NZ Herald, AKL, B9, 22/11/96  
 "Billboard Nude...", John Manuka, NZ Herald, AKL, A2, 8/11/96