

# whangarei art museum

te manawa toi

www.whangareiartmuseum.co.nz

## MEDIA RELEASE 05 August 2015

For immediate release

### Whangarei Art Museum welcomes new Director and Curator Ruth Green-Cole.

The Whangarei Art Museum Trust has appointed Ruth Green-Cole as new Director and Curator of the Whangarei Art Museum.

Ruth is an art historian with a background in arts leadership, management, curating, publishing and tertiary education. She has accumulated her expertise working for Whangarei arts organisations, trusts and institutions, including; Senior Lecturer in art history/theory on the Bachelor of Visual Arts at NorthTec; Manager for the Old Library Community Art Centre; Trustee and Chairperson of Te Kowhai Print Trust. Ruth was also formerly employed by Whangarei Art Museum as Assistant Curator and was later contracted to co-curate two exhibitions when WAM moved to its current premises at The Hub.

Most recently, Ruth has been working in Wellington teaching in the Art History department at Victoria University as well as working as an independent art consultant and researcher. Ruth holds a Master of Arts with First Class Honors in Art History and a Post-Graduate Diploma in Arts with Distinction in Art History from the University of Auckland as well as a Bachelor of Fine Arts majoring in Printmaking from the Elam School of Fine Arts, The University of Auckland.

“We’re very excited to have Ruth re-join the Whangarei Art Museum” says WAM Deputy Chair Kirsty Hughes.

“The Board have been so impressed by the existing staff and volunteers, who have done an exceptional job of managing WAM without a director for number of months. Their enthusiasm, skill and hard work have re-invigorated the art museum. Having Ruth leading the team will ensure they are supported to continue the excellent work already underway.”

Whangarei Art Museums visitor numbers have increased by 25% since July 2014 with an Education Centre poised to open before the end of the year subject to funding.

Staff have also been working on The Drummond/Te Wake Digitisation and Archival project with phase one completed ahead of schedule, and are excited to presents a series of events in response to *Kermadec: Lines in the Ocean* our current exhibition from Wednesday 26 – Saturday 29 August. Beginning with a pop-up PechaKucha evening in the gallery on Wednesday 26th August featuring talks by prominent environmentalists on topics including establishment of marine reserves, ocean ecology, visits to the Kermadecs and local environmental issues. This is followed by live installation performance *Rangitahua - the stopping off place...* curated by Company of Giants and concluding with former Whangarei resident Stuart Devenie’s return to the north to perform the award winning solo show ‘Hatch’ by Geoff Chapple, first produced by Auckland Theatre Company in 2007.

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#### Visitor Information:

OPEN Daily – 10am -4 pm

Closed Christmas Day | Boxing Day | Good Friday

#### Press Enquires:

Dent St | Town Basin | Whangarei

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