

citygallerysummer  
2009/2010

city gallery wellington, civic square



Copyright: Yayoi Kusama, Yayoi Kusama Studio Inc. Image courtesy: Victoria Miro Gallery/Dia Fine Arts, Tokyo.

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# yayoi kusama: mirrored years

Principal Sponsor Ernst and Young  
27 September 2009 – 7 February 2010  
Entry charges apply. West, East, North & South galleries, & the Russell Hancock Gallery.

## “I, Kusama, am the modern Alice in Wonderland.”

Yayoi Kusama



Yayoi Kusama, *Dots Obsession-Day*, 2008. Installation view: “JAPAN! CULTURE + HYPER CULTURE” at The Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C.  
Copyright: Yayoi Kusama, Yayoi Kusama Studio. Courtesy: Victoria Miro Gallery/Ota Fine Arts, Tokyo

Kusama’s work, idiosyncratic and consistently original, has positioned her as one of the most acclaimed and respected contemporary artists working today.

A radical and epoch-defining figure in the New York art world of the 1960s, Yayoi Kusama vied with Andy Warhol for the position of the most publicised artist of the era. Kusama became a mover and shaker in American counter-culture, organising public happenings as well as making influential work in a period when significant changes and innovations were taking place in art. In 1973 Kusama returned to Japan, where she continues to play a prominent role in the international art-world. Her work has been highly influential to a new generation of artists and designers. *Yayoi Kusama: Mirrored Years* presents seminal works from the 1960s and 1970s alongside more recent work. Kusama is renowned for her lifelong interest in visual perception and sensory experiences, her fixation with repetitive patterns and forms, her iconic use of dots and her dizzying installations.

Mixing Op Art, Pop Art and sculptural practice, her all-enveloping room-installations, mirrored to infinity, are hallucinatory, surreal, and utterly unlike anything else you will experience in the world of art. During the exhibition a new documentary *Near Equal vol. 5, Yayoi Kusama: I adore myself* will be screening in the new Denis and Verna Adam auditorium.

### Dance Performance

Footnote –

Watch This Space

Thurs 1 October, 12pm

Entry charges apply

Fri 2 October, 12pm

Entry charges apply

An improvised performance by Footnote Dance in response to the exhibition, *Yayoi Kusama: Mirrored Years*.

### Signed Tour for the Deaf Community

Wed 7 October, 10.30am

Free entry

Sat 17 October, 2pm

Entry charges apply

Enjoy an introduction to *Yayoi Kusama: Mirrored Years* given in NZ Sign Language by a member of the local deaf community.

### Director’s introduction to Yayoi Kusama:

Mirrored Years

Sat 10 October, 2pm

Entry charges apply

Wed 18 November, 12.30pm

Free entry

Join City Gallery Wellington Director Paula Savage for an introduction to *Yayoi Kusama: Mirrored Years*.

### Keynote Lecture

Dashing Into The Future: The Japanese Influences On The Art Of Yayoi Kusama

Thurs 15 October, 6pm

Adam Auditorium. Free entry

Japanese art historian and University of Melbourne Research Fellow Dr. Gary Hickey, will discuss the Japanese influences on the art of Yayoi Kusama.

### Lecture

Who is Yayoi Kusama?

Thurs 22 October, 6pm.

Adam Auditorium. Free entry

Victoria University lecturer, Ray Spiteri discusses the rediscovery of Kusama’s work since the 1990s.

### Open City

Late Night Session

Thurs 19 November

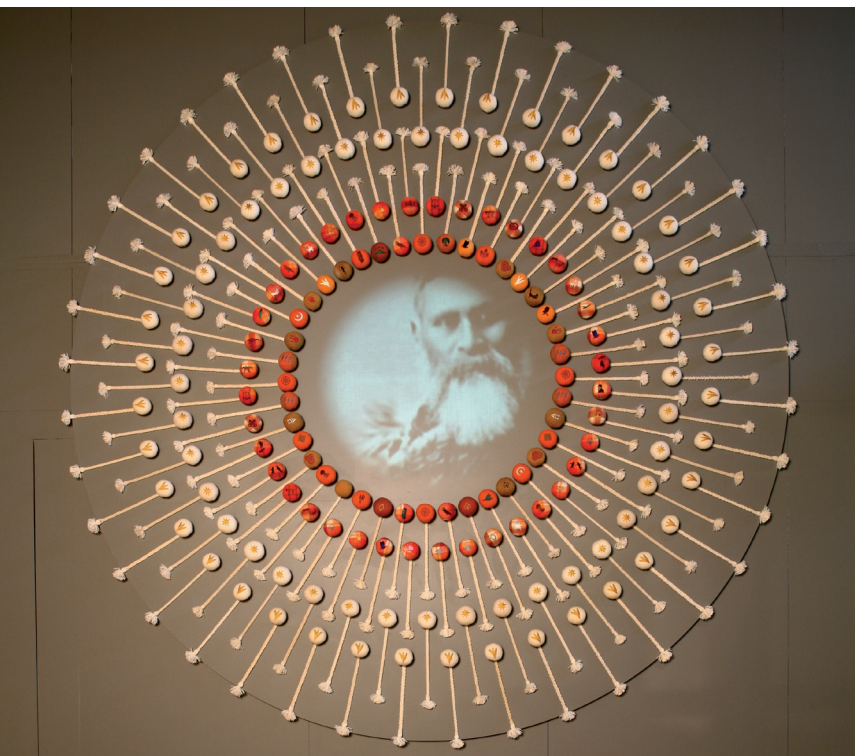
5-10pm. Entry charges apply

Don’t miss this opportunity to view exhibitions after dark and listen to ambient sounds.



**ngaahinahohaia**  
27 September 2009 – 10 January 2010  
Entry charges apply.

*Ngaahina Hohaia, Paopao ki tua o rangi, 2008.* Image courtesy of the artist and Puke Ariki, New Plymouth. Photo: Bryan James.



Parihaka artist Ngaahina Hohaia (Ngāti Moeahu, Ngāti Haupoto) will launch the new Roderick and Gillian Deane Gallery dedicated to Māori and Pacific art. Two works using over five hundred embroidered poi reflect upon interactions between the people of Parihaka and the colonial forces in the late 19th century. In particular, Hohaia honours Parihaka's political and spiritual leaders, Te Whiti o Rongomai and Tohu Kākahi, and their message of passive resistance. One of Hohaia's poi installation pieces *Patuki manawa* has recently been on display in Fibra Spirare, an exhibition at Rydals Museum in Sweden showcasing five contemporary New Zealand textile artists.

**theroderick&gilliandeane** gallery  
is dedicated to māori & pacific arts



**regangentry:makeway**  
27 September – 22 November 2009  
Entry charges apply.

Installation view of *Make Way: Regan Gentry, 2009.* Image courtesy of Andrew Beck.



A gallery-spanning motorway bypass constructed entirely from cane basketwork will launch the new Michael Hirschfeld Gallery. Wellington artist Regan Gentry has created a new installation for City Gallery Wellington. Viewers will share the gallery with a vast 12m long bridge form, and be able to move between its 4m high supporting columns. Regan's past work has engaged with materials including car tyres, No. 8 wire, gorsewood, manila twine, pumice and toe toe. *Make Way* recalls a piece of colossal kitsch architecture, or 1970s handcraft grown unruly. The work responds to contemporary discussions about ecological harm, local communities and urban planning, and processes of making and building.



**themichaelhirschfeld** gallery is dedicated to  
wellington-based artists, architects & designers

**Curators' Talk**  
Abby Cunnane &  
Reuben Friend  
Wed 21 October, 12.30-1.30pm  
**Free entry**  
Sat 31 October, 2pm  
Entry charges apply  
Abby Cunnane and Reuben Friend will provide a floor talk on the opening exhibitions in the Michael Hirschfeld and the new Roderick and Gillian Deane Galleries.

**Humanising the City**  
An Urban Planning Discussion  
Wed 4 November, 12.30pm  
Adam Auditorium. **Free entry**  
Urban designer Tom Beard will discuss urban planning issues in response to the exhibition *Make Way: Regan Gentry* with a panel of invited guests.

**Film Screening**  
Dutch Light  
Sat 28 November, 11am  
Adam Auditorium  
Entry charges apply  
Wed 2 December, 10.15am  
Adam Auditorium. **Free entry**  
This one hour documentary film explores the significance, and mythologising of light in the Dutch painting tradition.

**Lecture**  
Chinese Painting Traditions  
Wed 2 December, 12.30pm  
Adam Auditorium. **Free entry**  
Victoria University, Wellington lecturer Dr Feng will discuss Chinese painting of the 10th to 13th centuries.

**Poetry Reading**  
Beautiful Theories in the Capital  
Thurs 21 January, 6pm  
Adam Auditorium. **Free entry**  
Enjoy readings from the new edition of Gregory O'Brien and Louise St John's *Big Weather* (Mallinson Rendel), an anthology of poetry in response to Wellington's weather.

**Mana Whenua Māori History in Wellington**

by Morrie Love  
Wed 7 October  
12.30 - 1.30pm  
Adam Auditorium  
**Free entry**  
Morrie Love will present a session on the history of Māori settlement in Wellington.

**Korero Rangatira: Arts Leadership Lecture Series**

**Lecture 1:**  
Te Miringa Hohaia, Parihaka Peace Festival  
Wed 7 October, 3pm  
Adam Auditorium  
**Free entry**  
Hear about the success story of the Parihaka Peace Festival from festival Director Te Miringa Hohaia.

**Curators' Talk**  
Abby Cunnane and Reuben Friend  
Wed 21 October  
12.30 - 1.15. **Free entry**  
Sat 31 October, 2pm  
Entry charges apply  
Abby Cunnane and Reuben Friend will provide a floor talk on the opening exhibitions in the expanded galleries.

**Curator's Talk**  
Reuben Friend  
Wed 27 January  
12.30-1pm. **Free entry.**



## following the blue ribbon recent work by gerda leenards

27 September 2009 – 24 January 2010  
Entry charges apply.

Painter Gerda Leenards will create a panoramic frieze scene in the Gallery, taking the viewer on an imagined journey along the Yulong and Li Rivers. A sequence depicting rural China's mountainous landscape as experienced from the water, *Following the Blue Ribbon* is the result of the artist's recent trip to the Guilin province. The progression of connected canvas panels suggest time gone by – or time as it goes. Within each frame of these time-release images we see a section of the horizon, and its reflection often far more distinctly. Coolly contemplative, this series expands and continues Leenards' explorations of light, atmosphere and water.



Gerda Leenards, *Blue Silk Ribbon*, 2009. Image courtesy of Paul McCredie.



## architect bill toomath liberating everyday life

29 January 2010 – 14 March 2010  
Free entry from 22 February.

Defining himself as a 'fundamental Modernist', Wellington architect Bill Toomath has played a pioneering role in the propagation of Modernism in the local context. This exhibition concentrates on three key projects – the plans for a National Museum of Art on the waterfront (1949 thesis project), Toomath House (1950), and St Jerome's study (2007) – to look at his expression of 'continuous space'. City Gallery Wellington has worked closely with Bill Toomath, and with Sam Kebbell (Kebbell Daish Architects) to put together an exhibition which pays tribute to an extraordinary figure from the architecture community, and attempts to explore some of the paradoxes and contradictions within a conventional understanding of Modernist architecture.



Bill Toomath in his study, a project he modelled on the 17th century portrait *St Jerome in his Study* by Antonello da Messina.



## education

Education at City Gallery Wellington aims to inspire students to engage with and respond to contemporary visual arts. Students are provided with a unique, challenging, memorable, enjoyable, hands-on learning experience within a stimulating and welcoming environment. We take an enquiry-based approach to learning, encouraging the development of student visual literacy, critical and creative thinking skills.

## education events

### Gordon H Brown Lecture – Receptions of Colin McCahon in Australia

Thurs 5 November, 6pm. Adam Auditorium. Free entry.

In partnership with Victoria University Wellington, Rex Butler will consider four little-known receptions of McCahon in Australia: the work of Melbourne artist Geoff Newton, the novel *Theft: A Love Story* by Peter Carey and the work of the Indigenous artists the Nocketta sisters and Richard Bell. Please email [citygalleryevents@wmt.org.nz](mailto:citygalleryevents@wmt.org.nz) to secure your place.

### Teachers Professional Development Day

Fri, 9 October, 10am-3pm. Art Studio. \$45 per teacher.

Join educators from City Gallery Wellington to explore ways of discussing art works with children and learn some printmaking techniques inspired by Yayoi Kusama's artwork. Bookings essential, please email [citygalleryeducation@wmt.org.nz](mailto:citygalleryeducation@wmt.org.nz) to secure your place.

### Teacher's Preview

Fri, 9 October, 4-6pm. Free entry for teachers.

A special event for teachers to learn more about the Education programmes for Yayoi Kusama: *Mirrored Years*, *Make Way*: Regan Gentry and Ngaahina Hohaia. Bookings essential, please email [citygalleryeducation@wmt.org.nz](mailto:citygalleryeducation@wmt.org.nz) to secure your place.

### MEANZ Workshop Engaging Communities

Thurs and Fri, 4 and 5 February. Adam Auditorium and Art Studio.

Entry charges apply, see MEANZ website, [www.meanz.org.nz](http://www.meanz.org.nz) for details. Please contact MEANZ to secure your place.

## venue hire

City Gallery Wellington is bringing two exciting new function venues to the heart of Civic Square. The Foyer/Hancock Gallery is a dramatic new venue for Wellington with dining capacity for 120 guests and is ideal for cocktail parties too. The new Adam Auditorium is perfect for presentations, seminars, screenings and launches. For more information please contact the Gallery's Visitor Services Co-ordinator on +64 4 801 3021 or send an email to: [gallery.venue@wmt.org.nz](mailto:gallery.venue@wmt.org.nz)

## friends of the city gallery wellington

Joining the Friends of City Gallery Wellington gives you unique opportunities to hear directly from artist and curators at exclusive events. Also on offer are discounts on charged exhibitions and lectures and a ten percent discount on all Gallery merchandise. To find out more about the programme, pick up a brochure at the Gallery or send an email to [gallery.friends@wmt.org.nz](mailto:gallery.friends@wmt.org.nz)

## community tours

### Signed Tour for the Deaf Community

Wed 7 October, 10.30am

Free entry

Saturday 17 October, 2pm

Entry charges apply

Enjoy an introduction to Yayoi Kusama: *Mirrored Years* given in NZ Sign Language by a member of the local deaf community.

### Make Way:

A Tour and Touch Workshop for the Visually Impaired

Wed 21 October, 2pm

Free entry

Curator Abby Cunnane will provide a special tour for the visually impaired community in the exhibition *Make Way*: Regan Gentry.

### Gallery Babes

Wed 21 October, 10.30am

Free entry

Wed 18 November, 10.30am

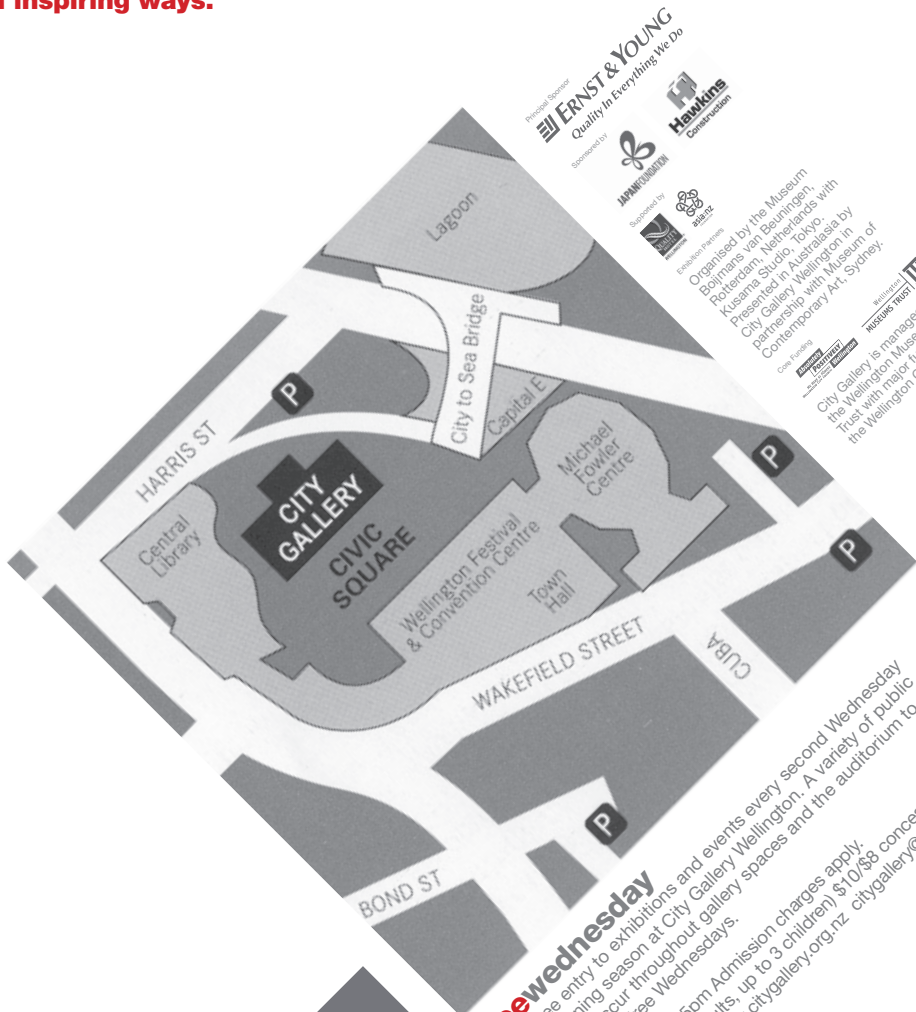
Free entry

Wed 21 January, 10.30am

Free entry

Mums, dads and caregivers can enjoy a short, baby-friendly tour of the new Gallery spaces.

**Spectacularly located in the heart of Civic Square, City Gallery Wellington offers distinctive, memorable exhibitions of contemporary New Zealand and international art. The Gallery provides visitors with sometimes challenging, always captivating art from some of the world's most exciting artists. With two new dedicated galleries showing the work of Wellington and Maori and Pacific artists, and extensive education and public programmes, City Gallery Wellington enables diverse audiences to experience art in new and inspiring ways.**



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Organised by the Museum  
 of Contemporary Art, Wellington,  
 in partnership with the  
 Museum of Contemporary Art,  
 Sydney.

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 the Wellington City Council.

**free wednesday**

Enjoy free entry to exhibitions and events every second Wednesday of the opening season at City Gallery Wellington. A variety of public events will occur throughout gallery spaces and the auditorium to coincide with Free Wednesdays.

Open Daily 10am – 5pm Admission charges apply.  
 \$25 Family Pass (2 adults, up to 3 children) \$10/\$8 concession.  
 Ph: +64 4 801 3021 [www.citygallery.org.nz](http://www.citygallery.org.nz) [citygallery@wmt.org.nz](mailto:citygallery@wmt.org.nz)