



Occupation: Artist launches Gallery Faux on Queen's Birthday

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*Contact: Kedron Parker,
kedronparker@gmail.com,
022 369 2326*

Armed with charisma, imagination and the magic of the internet, Occupation: Artist (O:A) is pleased to announce the launch of **Gallery Faux**.

Located at **GalleryFaux.com** just off Cuba Street, **Gallery Faux** is a non-commercial online gallery embracing what is fake, to show what is real.

Gallery Faux will run from 1 June through 30 September, presenting six shows by seven members of the Wellington-based collective Occupation: Artist.

The public is invited to join Occupation: Artist for a short and lively five-minute celebration on Queen's Birthday, Monday 1 June, 8pm sharp via Facebook Live on the Gallery Faux Facebook Page.

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How will Gallery Faux unfold?

Every third Monday from 1 June through 30 September, Gallery Faux will launch a new show at galleryfaux.com.

Keep an eye out – there will be contributions from local writers, special features on the Gallery Faux Instagram, and mini-celebrations broadcast via Facebook Live on the Gallery Faux Facebook page.

Why Gallery Faux?

Gallery Faux is Occupation: Artist's way of regaining agency in this time of cultural interruption.

The group's co-founder Sarah Read says "With the cancellation of our upcoming shows and the indefinite suspension of international travel, we all lost impetus. Gallery Faux is a life raft for us; the tight exhibition calendar gives us the incentive to keep on making and a destination for our work."

Sondra Bacharach, Occupation: Artist's philosopher-in-residence, reminds us that "as the rest of the world falls apart physically, financially, and emotionally, Gallery Faux offers an imaginative escape to a new virtual world order – socially, artistically, and creatively".

"Gallery Faux is our stand against adversity."

Kedron Parker says "When Creative New Zealand announced its Arts Continuity Grants, we recognised an opportunity to make this time count – and create a platform that would help us to focus and push our work forward, both individually and as a group."

"Responding to the economic crisis has helped us realise that we need to come together to look at personal resilience and artistic sustainability in a broader sense."

Kelly McDonald adds that "Working as a collective gives us the support to deal with all the direct and indirect stresses at such an uncertain time".

About Occupation: Artist

Occupation: Artist (O:A) is a Wellington-based collective whose individual art practices span conceptual art, contemporary jewellery, sculpture, performance, photography, video and sound. Since forming in 2013 they have undertaken large-scale public art projects at home and overseas, initiated events, hosted studio residencies and participated in conferences in NZ, Australia and Europe.

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GalleryFaux.com



Facebook / Gallery Faux



Instagram / Gallery Faux

The six shows opening at Gallery Faux

1 June to 30 September 2020

1 June: Kedron Parker, *Nautilus into Night*

1 June will mark the launch of the gallery's first show, *Nautilus into Night*, by Occupation: Artist's newest member Kedron Parker. Parker has been photographing the Nautilus Creative Space near her home in Owhiro Bay for the past year, and has chosen to mark the lockdown with a series of interior photographs of the space with a surrealist and uncanny twist.

Parker says, "it's certainly timely, as Nautilus has sat empty during lockdown, I imagined that like my pictures, the place was still inhabited – there was always a presence in the room."



22 June: Kelly McDonald, *Piss, Pooh and Spew, Keeping it Real!*



Gallery Faux's second offering launches on 22 June with *Piss, Pooh and Spew, Keeping it Real!* In this show, Kelly McDonald explores the realities of working mothers during Covid-19. Whether the stress comes from belatedly discovering nappy cream on your jacket lapel, or leading New Zealand through the world's most significant crisis since the war, jewellery offers a multitude of solutions. Inspired by Prime Minister Ardern's instagram post (left), McDonald recognises Jacinda's badge of honour and responds with jewellery that both conceals and reveals.

13 July: Becky Bliss, *Fifth Dimension*

Bliss has accepted the offer of artist in residence aboard the NASA International Space Station (ISS).

She has been in training for 8 weeks for the project, and will join the Tom Cruise team aboard the Crew Dragon Spacecraft early next month.

NASA: "we will say more about this project at the appropriate time..."

Space X CEO (Elon Musk): "Should be a lot of fun!"

Bliss: "a career highlight ... I'll be adding a fifth dimension to the trip..."



3 August: Caroline Thomas, *F*KE IT, F*CK IT, FECIT*



On 3 August, Caroline Thomas opens at Gallery Faux with her new show *F*KE IT, F*CK IT, FECIT*. With this show, Thomas contemplates the familiar phrase “Fake it ‘til you make it” and asks, what happens if you don’t ‘make it’? Or at least not on the terms that you were hoping for, planning for, or expecting? Thomas says, “I am emboldened by the potential of occupying the shapeshifting exhibition space of Gallery Faux to produce work that considers subjects as diverse as grief, control, ownership, the rewriting of history, false memory syndrome and the fact that on the internet, nobody knows you’re a dog.”

24 August: *Factory Girl, Smoke and Mirrors*

It’s a bird, it’s a plane, no, it’s FACTORY GIRL!

She’s quiet, prim and proper; she’s reserved, calm and organised. She wears a pinafore to bake; she dutifully composts. She’s of humble origins, leading a simple life in a quiet neighbourhood. She could live just as easily in the UK as NZ, or anywhere in between. She’s the woman next door - the one whose name you can’t quite remember; the one who always does the communally right thing, but won’t take any credit. But, that’s all smoke and mirrors: behind this wholesome façade are the women saving the world, one good deed at a time.



14 September: Nadine Smith, *Apparatus*



For our final show Nadine Smith, artist and nurse, will further delve into concerns around the fragility of life. In her show *Apparatus*, Smith will grasp pockets of time to develop creations reflecting her own real and imagined whimsical universe. Worlds collide in her effort to assimilate and escape the stressful realities that surround her.

“There is no life I know to compare to pure imagination. Living there you’ll be free if you truly wish to be”

Roald Dahl

Press enquiries: Kedron Parker at kedronparker@gmail.com 022 369 2326