

# Conversations between paint and glass

*Conversations - a joint exhibition between Wellington Institute of Technology (WelTec) Senior Visual Arts Lecturer and painter Lorraine Rastorfer and glass artist Elizabeth McClure explores the commonalities between their two very different mediums of work.*

Their exhibition, which is currently showing at TheNewDowse in Lower Hutt, is the first joint venture between the pair, who first met 10 years ago. They soon discovered that their art and artistic ideas were very similar even though one is a painter and one is a glass artist. These similarities include the way they use colour and line, and the concept of transparency as a visual element. Lorraine says that you can't grasp how similar they actually are until you see them together. "They sound like they would be worlds apart, but there are so many elements in each of our work that are alike. That's where the title of the exhibition came from - things that are so different but yet that communicate with one another."

Lorraine sees her work as an exploration of the idea of fabric. "Meshworks, which is the title of my collection, looks at the fabric of existence and the idea of cultural fabrics." This can be seen in the different pieces. Archipelago (meaning a chain or cluster of islands), which is the title of her burnt sienna and gold piece, depicts the weaving of the pacific mats. It shows the cultural identity of the Pacific Islands and the intertwining of western and pacific cultures.

To go along with this exhibition, Lorraine has recently received a research and innovation grant from WelTec which has helped to fund her artistic research and produce a catalogue of her current collection 'Mesh-

works'. Lorraine is excited about having a catalogue published to accompany the exhibition. "I couldn't have done this without the support of WelTec," says Lorraine.

2008 is going to be a busy year for Lorraine. Not only does she have her current exhibition at TheNewDowse, but Lorraine has had work accepted in the 2008 Waikato Painting Awards and has another show later this year at Mark Hutchins Gallery in Wellington. Not to mention a full year of teaching on WelTec's new Bachelor of Creative Technologies (BCT) which commences at WelTec's redeveloped CBD Campus in Wellington on the 3rd of March. "We [WelTec] are very passionate about this new degree. It is our opportunity to take the best of what we currently teach in visual arts and combine it with the best of digital media, interior design, cultural design and product design engineering."

'Conversations' is showing at TheNewDowse until the 30th of March.



**Lorraine Rastorfer explains the meaning behind her collection 'Meshworks' at TheNewDowse in Lower Hutt.**

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