

THE SUTER ART GALLERY TE ARATOI O WHAKATŪ

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*Paranoid anxieties in three dimensions at The Suter Art Gallery
from Saturday 19 November 2011*

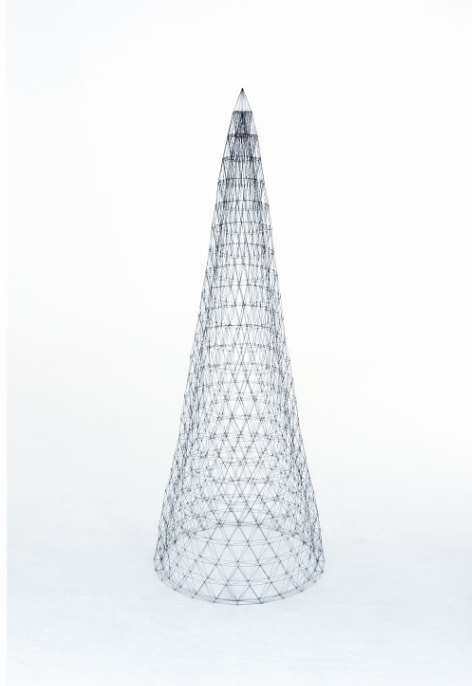
DIONOIA: A Diorama of Paranoia is an exhibition that explores apocalyptic paranoia as explored in the work of seven male sculptors, and opens at The Suter Art Gallery on Saturday 19 November.

DIONOIA: A Diorama of Paranoia is an exhibition that marks the final year of the Mesoamerican Long Count calendar. This calendar was observed by the Mayan civilisation and accounts for a 5,125 year-long cycle that ends on December 21, 2012. This 'end date' has been a controversial and much debated subject within academia, popular culture and new ageism. It is also one example of the many eschatological beliefs – that is, the end of the world as we know it – to be found in cultures and histories around the world.

This exhibition entertains the prophecies and doomsday theories association with this event. It features art works by seven male artists who work in three dimensions: sculpture, installation and animation. These works reference fallen empires,

megalomaniac regimes, disasters – natural and man-made – and apocalyptic narratives in popular culture; from the cult cartoon sitcom, *The Simpsons*, which is set in a town with a nuclear power plant, to James Cameron's time-travel, machine-war epic, *The Terminator*.

DIONOIA might also be considered a survey of emerging and established male sculptors, and questions if apocalyptic paranoia is a male concern.



The Suter's curator, Anna-Marie White, says: "*DIONOIA* initially responded to the trend of model-making and dioramas in New Zealand sculpture. But it soon became apparent that a number of sculptors were using realistic modelling techniques to create twisted depictions of everyday life at full scale. Moreover, these 'other-world' art works expressed feelings of anxiety and paranoia and referenced apocalyptic events, real or imagined. To emphasise these feelings, we decided to construct an environment – a diorama – in the gallery, which combined these various sculptured art works to construct an environment that was thick with unease. The end of the Mayan calendar gives relevant focus to these ideas but reminds us that it is only one of many apocalyptic prophecies in our history."

DIONOIA features the work of Brit Bunkley, Eddie Clemens, Ben Pearce, Peter Madden, David Ryan, Peter Trevelyan and Ronnie van Hout and runs until Sunday 6 February 2012.

Two artists, Ben Pearce (Napier) and Peter Trevelyan (Wellington) will be install their art works at The Suter Art Gallery and will be available for media interviews from Thursday 17 November. They will also present a talk about their art works on Saturday 19 November at 2 pm. This is a free event.

ENDS

For more information contact:

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Top image: Peter Madden, *Sea* 2010. Mixed media. Courtesy of the artist and Robert Heald Gallery, Wellington

Bottom image: Peter Trevelyan, *Hyperboloid* 2011. Pencil lead construction. Courtesy of the artist, Wellington.

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