



THE ATTINGHAM TRUST
FOR THE STUDY OF COUNTRY HOUSES AND COLLECTIONS



MEDIA RELEASE

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THE CLARK COLLECTION/CREATIVE NEW ZEALAND SCHOLARSHIP WINNER ANNOUNCED

The Clark Collection/Creative NZ Scholarship winner for 2006 has been announced in Wellington by the donor of the Scholarship and chairman of the selection panel, Errol Clark. Mr Clark is a New Zealand financier, art connoisseur and heritage advocate. His generous gift towards The Clark Collection/Creative NZ Scholarship provides an opportunity for New Zealand professionals in the built heritage and decorative arts field to expand their knowledge through attending the prestigious Attingham Trust Summer School in England. The Scholarship also offers the recipients a number of short internships with organisations such as English Heritage, The National Trust, the Victoria & Albert Museum and The Royal Collection.

The winner of the 2006 Scholarship is Robyn Notman of the Dunedin Public Art Gallery. Currently Visitor Programmes Coordinator, Robyn has been employed at the Dunedin Public Art Gallery for some fifteen years, where she has curated a number of exhibitions, devised and delivered public programmes, and has undertaken research and collection development work. Her interests and expertise lie especially in the gallery's historical collection, which has internationally significant works of decorative art, including ceramics, silver, textiles and furniture, as well as paintings and works on paper. Robyn is also a champion of the restoration and preservation of Otago's built heritage, with hands-on experience in her own historic home.

The Clark Collection/Creative NZ Scholarship will enable Robyn to study the cultural and historical context of the objects in the collections of both the Dunedin Public Art Gallery and its sister institution, the Otago Settlers Museum. As curator of a forthcoming exhibition focusing on the 18th century, Robyn is keen to study the ways in which such objects are exhibited and interpreted in the UK. Robyn's ongoing project of cataloguing and research into collection objects will be informed by her Scholarship experience, and will contribute to the development of future programmes for the Gallery.

Priscilla Pitts, Director of the Dunedin Public Art Gallery, is in no doubt that Robyn will make the most of the opportunities the Scholarship offers: "Robyn is in an ideal position to share the benefits in terms of public programmes and exhibitions in coming years. All she learns will be to the benefit of the Gallery, its visitors and those who are interested in the understanding and development of its collections." The Gallery will be encouraging opportunities for Robyn to share the knowledge she gains at Attingham with other museums and colleagues elsewhere in New Zealand.

With the support of Mr Clark and Creative New Zealand, this Scholarship is advancing the body of expertise on the decorative arts and built heritage in this country. Now in its 4th year, the three previous Scholars are building on their Attingham experience, and making significant contributions in their fields. David Reynolds (2003) is Auckland Area Office Coordinator for the NZ Historic Places Trust; Louis le Vaillant (2004) is Curator, Applied Arts at Auckland Museum; and Angela Lassig (2005) is Senior Curator, History at Te Papa. Speaking at the announcement of the 2006 Scholarship, Angela expressed her ongoing appreciation of her Scholarship experience, not only for the knowledge gained, but also for the opportunity to meet and engage with experts from all over the world, building productive relationships between individuals and institutions.

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photo caption:

Angela Lassig (2005 Scholar, Senior Curator, History at Te Papa), Robyn Notman and Errol Clark

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