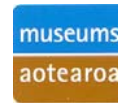




THE ATTINGHAM TRUST
FOR THE STUDY OF COUNTRY HOUSES AND COLLECTIONS



MEDIA RELEASE

THURSDAY 15 MARCH 2007

THE CLARK COLLECTION/CREATIVE NEW ZEALAND SCHOLARSHIP WINNER ANNOUNCED

Claire Regnault, Concept Development Manager at TheNewDowse and Petone Settlers Museum has been announced today as the 2007 Clark Collection/Creative New Zealand Scholar, by Anthony Wright, Director of Canterbury Museum on behalf of the selection panel.

The Clark Collection/Creative NZ Scholarship is the generous gift of Mr Errol Clark, a New Zealand financier, art connoisseur and heritage advocate. His support of 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.

Creative New Zealand provides significant additional support for the Scholarship, and return air travel to the UK is funded by the NZ-UK Link Foundation. The Scholarship is facilitated and administered by Museums Aotearoa. This collaborative partnership makes such a comprehensive study programme possible.

At the NewDowse and Petone Settlers Museum, Claire Regnault is responsible for overseeing the development of the exhibition, awards and event programmes, and the collections of both institutions. Ms Regnault has previously held positions at the Napier Museum, City Gallery Wellington and the McDougall Art Annex in Christchurch. She has curated a wide range of exhibitions and developed a particular interest in textiles and fashion.

Ms Regnault sees this scholarship as a rare opportunity to participate in intensive programmes at an academic and international level. "Such an opportunity, particularly within the specialist and often marginalised areas of decorative arts and the built environment, cannot be found in

New Zealand. I am especially excited by the opportunity to undertake customised internships. The appeal of The Clark Collection/Creative NZ Scholarship is that it provides immersive learning, invaluable on-the-job experience and real collegial exchange."

Ms Regnault hopes to research ideas for the restoration, access to and interpretation of the Petone Settlers Museum building. This architectural gem was constructed in 1939 as the Wellington Provincial Centennial Memorial of the arrival of the first organised settlers in 1840; and as a bathing shed. She explains that "the Attingham experience and National Trust internship especially, will provide invaluable insight into tackling this challenge from historical, interpretive and business perspectives."

Tim Walker, Director of TheNewDowse and Petone Settlers Museum, is thrilled with Ms Regnault's selection. "The Clark Collection/Creative New Zealand Scholarship, with its dual focus on the decorative arts and built environment, is well timed in relation to the development of both our institutions. The scholarship will contribute greatly to Claire's curatorial practice which she is keen to challenge and expand", he says.

With the support of Mr Clark, Creative New Zealand and the NZ-UK Link Foundation, this Scholarship is advancing the body of expertise on the decorative arts and built heritage in this country. Now in its fifth year, the four 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; Angela Lassig (2005) is Senior Curator, History at Te Papa; and Robyn Notman (2006) is Public Programmes Manager at the Dunedin Public Art Gallery.

The Scholarship announcement will be made at the 2007 Museums Aotearoa conference dinner, hosted by the NZ National Maritime Museum in Auckland.

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