



HANDSHAKE 2 final exhibition at Pah Homestead, Auckland 15 December 2015 until 14 February 2016

The HANDSHAKE2 project is a 2 year progressive mentoring programme for selected contemporary jewellery artists. It offers several national and international exhibitions, professional development and the opportunity to expand and grow each maker's practice. This group of jewellery artists will showcase exciting new work at Pah Homestead. It will be their fifth and final exhibition and represents the culmination of the two year intensive making programme. Each artist has recorded their development and progress of work and ideas on a blog handshake2.com. It's a fascinating read for other makers as well as those who want to learn more about jewellery.

In the four years since its conception, the HANDSHAKE programme has built a large reputation for excellence and inclusion has been sought by well-known and emerging jewellers from all over New Zealand. The participants are selected through an open call out and the selection panel consisted of internationally renowned experts from diverse art practices.

"It is a fine-tuning process and we have to ask if a mentorship would further the artist's practice, whether they have the drive to take risks and experiment, and to become a mentee, but also if the chosen mentor has the potential to progress their candidate. This project relies on the developing relationship and the concentrated focus of each mentee in tandem with the generosity and knowledge of the participating mentors."

The innovative programme is based on the old apprentice system but in reverse, where the mentor works for the mentee with digital media as the vehicle for communication. The mentee has regular feedback sessions with their chosen hero-artist through a virtual workshop window using Skype, blogs, and emails as well as the old-fashioned post to connect. Some also travel overseas to meet their mentors face to face.

In 2014 a fresh group of New Zealand contemporary jewellers began with their chosen hero in the second iteration of the Handshake (HS) mentoring and exhibition program – Handshake 2.

These 11 Handshake artists are: Amelia Pascoe, Karren Dale, Kathryn Yeats, Kelly McDonald, Lisa Higgins, Raewyn Walsh, Renee Bevan, Sarah Walker-Holt, Tineke Jansen, Julia Middleton, Vanessa Arthur and are accordingly mentored by Ruudt Peters (NL), Gemma Draper (Spain), Ben Pearce (NZ), Kirsten Haydon (Au), Cal Lane (Ca), Henriette Schuster (Germany), Harrell Fletcher (US), Helen Britton (Germany), Ela Bauer (NL), Terhi Tolvanen (Finland), David Neale (Au).

HANDSHAKE2 exhibition at Pah Homestead (upstairs gallery), Auckland: 15 Dec 2015 – 14 Feb 2016, opening Monday 14 December

<http://www.tsbbankwallaceartscentre.org.nz/>

[The Pah Homestead, TSB Wallace Arts Centre](#)

72 Hillsborough Rd, Hillsborough, Auckland

Open Tues to Fri, 10am – 3pm

Sat & Sun 10am – 5pm

T 09 639 2010 E enquiries@wallaceartstrust.org.nz

History of HS2:

The participants' first event together was a Jewelcamp weekend in April 2014. This weekend allowed mentees to get to know each other and to see each other as another resource to be developed and drawn on throughout the program.

The first HS2 exhibition was held at the public gallery, Toi Pōneke in Wellington (November 2014). The size of the space offered the handshakers a great opportunity to explore new installation options with their work.

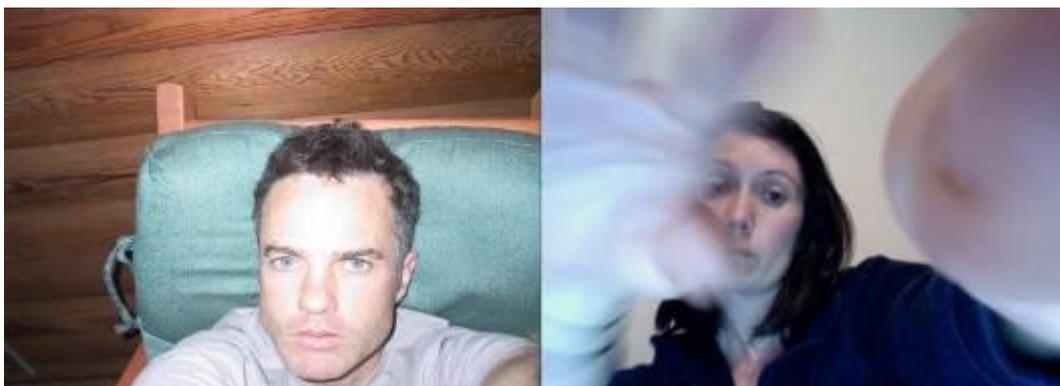
The second Jewelcamp and Masterclass was held in February 2015 and was coordinated and led by Benjamin Lignel who supported the mentees with developing ideas, extracting the difference between conceptual intent and material outcome, processes for the production of products versus projects and questioning assumptions about the format of exhibiting art objects.

The third HS2 exhibition was a stand out show in Sydney at Stanley Street Gallery during the Sydney JMGA Conference "Edges Borders Gaps" (10-12th July 2015).

The fourth HS2 exhibition in September 2015 took place at AVID - a well established, high calibre Wellington gallery, stocking craft and art objects. This exhibition offered the gallery goers the opportunity to see the mentors exhibiting their own work alongside that of their mentees.

About the HS2 artists:

Renee Bevan - mentored by Harrell Fletcher.



"I want to make work that is alive".

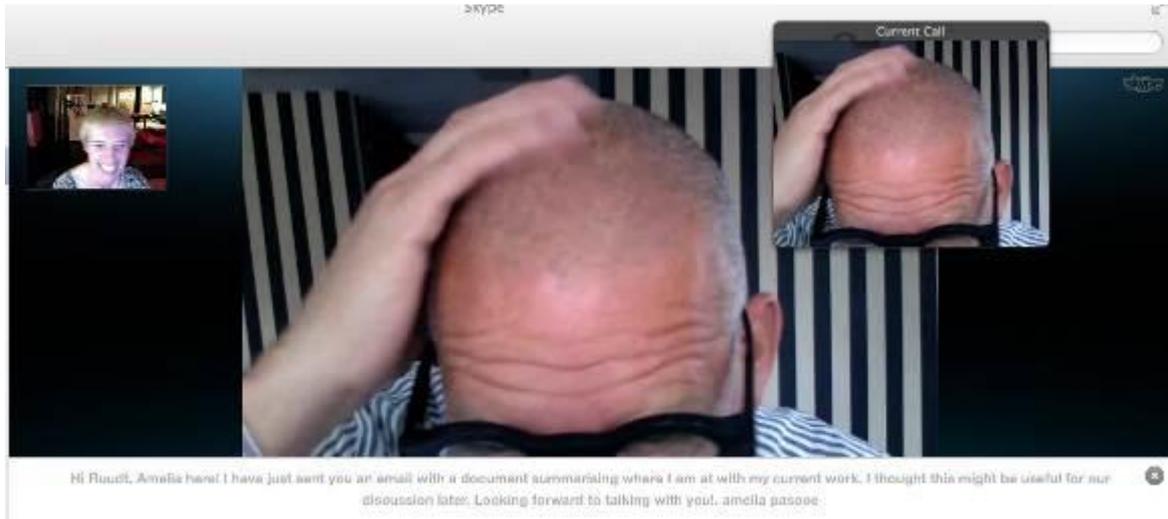
Sarah Walker-Holt - mentored by Helen Britton



"Recent foraging for wooden objects has led me to vessels while still keeping the stimulus of my material gathering in the everyday domestic sphere.

I am drawn to the irony of finding these vessels side by side. I see an unsung hierarchy as I acquire them, even though they have both become unfashionable and discarded. Formerly from very different points of origin; one is made as a commodity from an easily accessible material while the other as a leisure pursuit from a treasurable resource."

Amelia Pascoe – mentored By Ruudt Peters



“My journey to contemporary jewellery has been winding, scenic and rewarding. My adventures, a rich source of inspiration. I have terrible memory for facts and figures, but I think a lot, love a quirky story, and a good technical challenge. Small details, contradictions and surprises are things I hold dear. Through Handshake I am exploring new ways. Ruudt Peters is my conspirator. Don’t make beautiful things he says. Be less rational he says. Embrace chaos he says”. OK

Kathryn Yeats - mentored by Ben Pearce



Kathryn worked alongside award-winning New Zealand visual artist Ben Pearce. Pearce is concerned with the effect time has on objects and spaces: how they have been used and the deterioration that leaves marks behind. Kathryn uses timber and steel to create complex structures with compartments that hide unexpected stories. Her designs are reminiscent of domestic objects and architectural spaces that have been well used and occupied, but are now abandoned.

Karren Dale – mentored by Gemma Draper



Artist statement

The distillation of ideas through process contributes to an understanding of these materials, however any meaning may be elusive but is potentially implied.

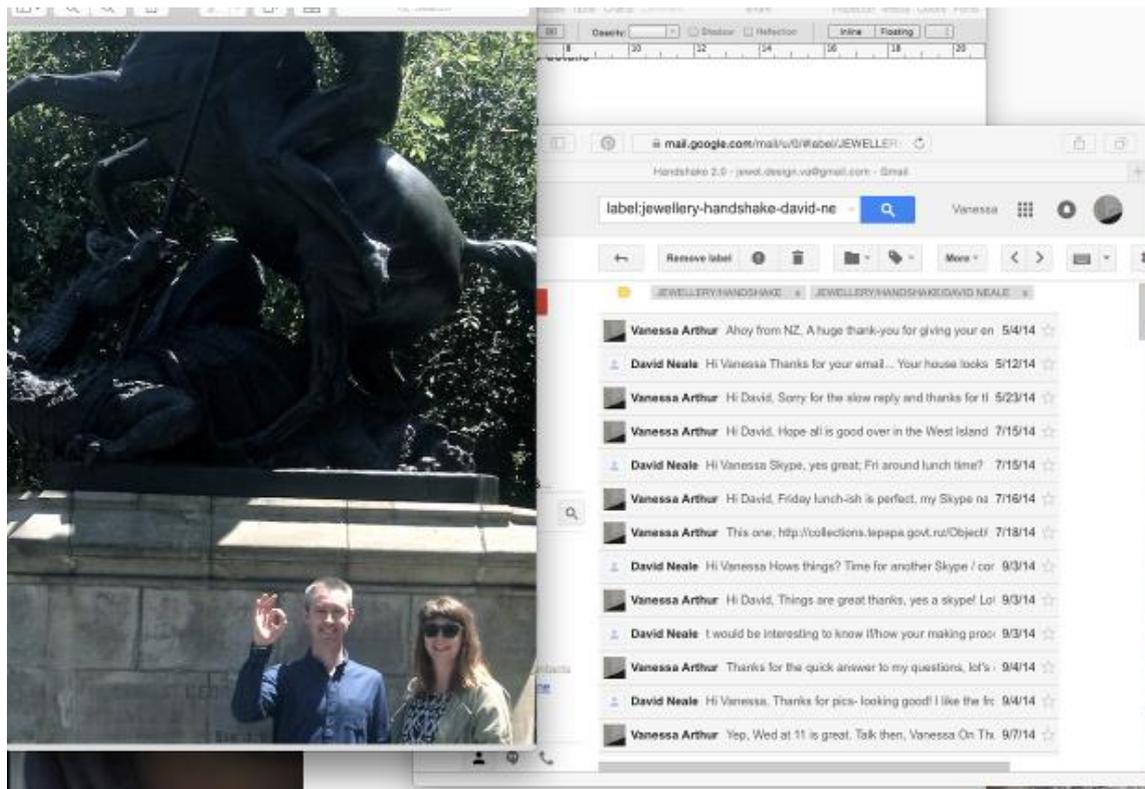
The fundamental approach to explorative methods of joining and the juxtaposition of materials activates form in relation the body. This may also be implied as the resultant object may pertain to an autonomous existence separate from the human form. In this way it can activate space in a potential sculptural sense.

Tineke Jansen - mentored by Ela Bauer



Handshake2 has been an experience like no other. As a mentee of Handshake discussions with a mentor are vital and sharing with an audience is encouraged. In many ways you are left without a mask to hide behind. The more you share the more of yourself you are putting out there for open critique. This has really pushed me out of that 'safe space' that I've often preferred to hide in and seen me grow as a maker to create my most valued work to date.

Vanessa Arthur - mentored by David Neale

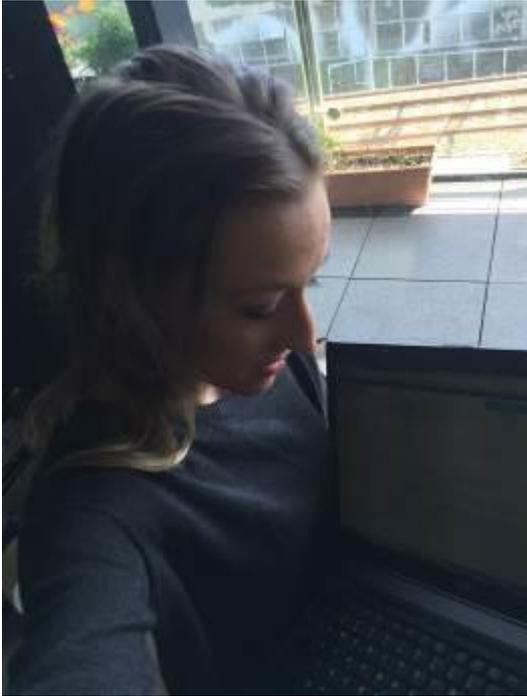


The drifting trove

2014-2015

An excavation of the everyday and the un-monumental.

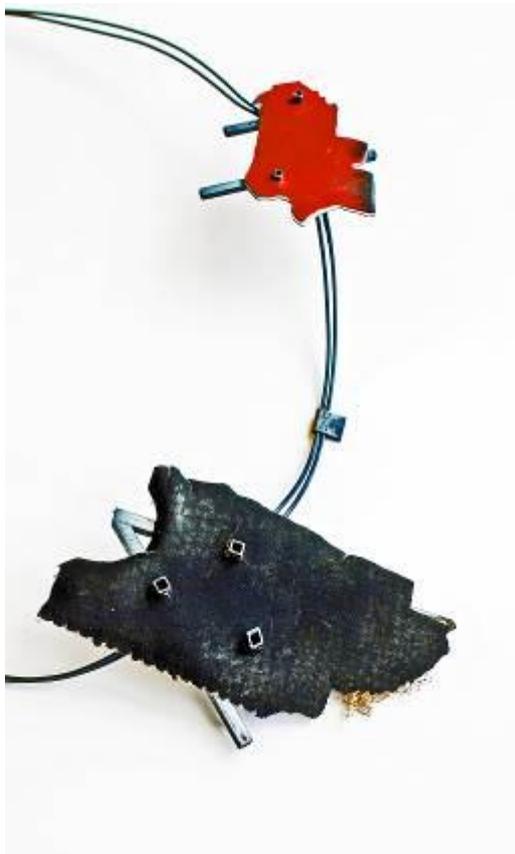
Lisa Higgins – Mentored by Cal Lane



Referencing what has gone before and reinterpreting this through material choice and abstraction of familiar forms, *Filling the Void* embraces the 'space between' - the past and the present, the visible and the invisible, the real and the imagined.

'...We become aware of the void as we fill it.' - Antonio Porchia

Julia Middleton – mentored by Terhi Tolvanen



“Gravity warning.... space junk reminder”

Raewyn Walsh - mentored by Henriette Schuster



Henriette

Raewyn



I work intuitively, hammering on metal until a form emerges. I look for that moment when the inanimate becomes animate.

Kelly McDonald - mentored by Kirsten Hayden



Kelly focuses her making around the exploration of materials and their previous human interventions, often as a counterpoint to mass production, built in obsolescence and 3-D printers.



Handshake project is funded by Creative New Zealand and supported by Makers 101, JEMbooks, Whitireia NZ