

NEWS REVIEW

Arts dollars develop snapshot dreams



MIND'S EYE: Marie Shannon and her pictures of scripts of dreams — "an interesting little narrative with entertaining and funny juxtapositions."

Auckland artists and art institutions, including the Auckland City Art Gallery, have done well in the latest funding round announced by the Arts Board of Creative New Zealand.

Grants worth more than \$2.7 million were shared among 224 artists and organisations.

The cash covers less than a third of the numerous applications — about 100 more than last year.

Fine art photographer Marie Shannon is one of four mid-career artists to receive the equivalent of a year's salary — around \$35,000 — to enable them to work as full-time artists next year.

The others are Terrence Handscomb, who works with computers and video, sculptor Shona Rapira-Davies, both of Wellington,

Grants equivalent to a year's salary give four artists time to concentrate on their work. PAT BASKETT tells who got what in the latest handouts.

and Fiona Clark, a documentary photographer, of Taranaki.

The grant will enable Shannon to leave her job making prints in a commercial photographic workshop and develop new directions in her work.

She graduated from Elam in 1982, majoring in photography. An exhibition of more than 10 years of her work was shown at Lopdell House earlier this year.

Much of her work has been of objects and environments, such as the interiors of houses, which

Shannon has created especially for the camera.

Her most recent interest is incorporating text into photographs, by photographing written versions of dreams, both her own and those of others, about art and artists.

Some have been written in pencil on cardboard and photographed close-up with a large-format camera, giving a very textured result. Others are written directly on to a large negative.

Far from being boring — as the cliché about other people's dreams has it — the result, says Shannon, is a photograph of "an interesting little narrative with entertaining and funny juxtapositions."

She described the grant of \$35,750 as fantastic. "I hope to make the best possible use of it."

Wellington lecturer Terrence Handscomb plans to work on an interactive computer installation and digital video disk called *Space Invaders*.

Shona Rapira-Davies first attracted critical attention through her series of life-size ceramic figures called *Nga Morehu* (the survivors). She will use her grant to develop work in stainless steel for a project entitled *The Immigrant Series*.

Fiona Clark's grant will support a project called *The Other Half* in which she plans to explore the effects of a car accident in 1977 which left her with severe head injuries.

A significant feature of the funding round is the allocation of grants to public art galleries, in recognition, said Arts Board chairwoman Professor Claudia Scott, of the important role they play in developing the visual arts and presenting them to New Zealand audiences.

The Auckland City Art Gallery has been given \$30,000 towards the funding of Maori guides to provide interpretation of the history of the paintings of the Charles Goldie. A major exhibition of his portraits opens on June 28.

The gallery also received \$20,000 to support artists' projects.

Other public institutions to receive funding include New Plymouth's Govett Brewster gallery for a commissioned work by Auckland artist Maureen Lander; the Dowse Art Museum in Lower Hutt for a publication about Auckland glass artist Ann Robinson; the Fisher Gallery, Pakuranga, for a body of new work by Auckland fibre artist Helen Schamroth; the Auckland Museum for a touring exhibition of stone sculpture by Auckland sculptor John Edgar; and the Gow Langsford gallery for a catalogue on the work of Jeffrey Harris, whose new paintings will be exhibited there next month.

The Australian Centre for Photography receives \$10,000 towards an exhibition in Sydney and Brisbane of contemporary photographic and video art from the South Pacific. A representative of the arts board said that this was because about 50 per cent of the artists represented were from New Zealand.

Among Auckland artists to receive grants of between \$20,000 and \$2000 were: Yuk King Tan, Vicki Kerr, Laurence Aberhart, Denis O'Connor, Julian Dashper, Felix Krause, Sheyne Tuffery, Joyce Campbell, Susan Brooker, Paul Swadel, Niki Hastings-McFall, and the G4 Exhibiting Unit to produce four architectural exhibitions on the history of the New Zealand house.