

Marie Shannon

Marie Shannon talks to herself

What is the dumbest thing you have ever done?

Gosh, that's tricky. I've done so many dumb things, but I think the book incident was the most memorable.

I was six years old, and in primer 4, Mrs Herbert's class, at Murrays Bay Primary School. It was 1966. We had to have special reading tests with the Head of the Infant Department, whose name was Miss Cleland. She was very old, and big and scary, and she didn't seem to like kids much. She retired about a year later. She was in charge of new entrants, plus ran these special reading tests. Also she had her own office, which not many other teachers had. Anyway, these tests ran over a couple of days, and each kid was called out of class singly, to go to her office, which was near the headmaster's office and the staff room. There were no other kids around, and just going near those offices made you want to go to the toilet. There was a fish tank in the main foyer, and some kids said one of the fish in it was a shark, and we always argued over which one was the shark. I thought it was the black one, because it was longer and thinner than the others. None of the fish was more than five inches long, so maybe none of them was a shark. Anyway, when it was my turn, I walked through the foyer, past the fish tank,

top: *New Zealand's funniest art video* 1994

middle: *Art bloopers* 1994

above: *Untitled (cat door)* 1993

right: *Untitled (waxy balls)* 1993

over page: *Charm bracelet – travel* 1993

A WHILE AGO I DECIDED TO BE A VIDEO ARTIST. MY FIRST PROJECT WAS GOING TO BE "NEW ZEALAND'S FUNNIEST ART VIDEO." I WOULD GET EVERY ARTIST I COULD THINK OF AND VIDEO EACH OF THEM COMING OUT THE END OF "BOB'S MISTAKE," WHICH IS A REALLY SCARY WATERSLIDE AT WAIHERA HOT POOLS, NEAR AUCKLAND. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN REALLY FUNNY, BUT A LOT OF WORK TO ORGANISE.

ANOTHER VIDEO PROJECT I THOUGHT I MIGHT DO WAS CALLED "ART BLOOPERS." IT INVOLVED MAKING A VIDEO OF A SERIES OF ACCIDENTS OR EMBARRASSING MOMENTS INVOLVING ART WORKS. BUT IT WOULD HAVE TO BE SPONTANEOUS, AND YOU'D HAVE TO BE EVERYWHERE WITH A VIDEO CAMERA. AGAIN, A LOT OF WORK. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN FUNNY, THOUGH.

HOW DO YOU GET THOSE SMEARS OFF A PERSPEX CAT DOOR?

WHAT ARE THOSE LITTLE BEIGE WAXY BALLS THAT WASH UP ON THE BEACH?

