

Directors Report

Rosemary Forde

The Physics Room is a platform for contemporary art – its practitioners and its audiences. Rather than working towards an institutional ownership around our programmes, we aim to build a community and collaborative network with The Physics Room, diverging at various points to encompass new thoughts and modes of practice. Making things happen, and more importantly having the flexibility to allow things to happen. The Physics Room is grounded in the potential for something new and unique, sometimes risky, to exist within a city that is rightly or wrongly not reputed to welcome artistic risk-taking, youthful exuberance or diversity.

In 2003 we worked with 39 artists across twelve exhibitions in the project space and ten projects were presented in our public art site The Kiosk since May. Twelve performers and presenters participated in our series of public programme events, while seventeen writers were commissioned to contribute to The Physics Room publications.

We are proud to have shown our commitment and respect to the contemporary practitioners we work with by contributing over \$20 000 in artist fees throughout the year. Our funding from Creative New Zealand continued to provide the basis of our operational budget, supplemented and sustained by in-kind sponsorship, grants and donations from many foundations and businesses.

Further funding sources and partners allowed The Physics Room to develop projects to a high calibre with extended avenues of involvement. Radio New Zealand partnered the sound art project Audible New Frontiers, which manifested physically in the project space, broadcast on National Radio's "revolutions per minute" programme and was permanently

archived as a CD release. Other exhibitions aligned with larger art events, Push the Button was presented within the Christchurch Arts Festival and The Loni & Roni Show was a feature of the Pacific Art Symposium's extended programme.

The Physics Room exhibition Bombs Away (curated by Sophie Jerram in 2002 and supported by the Peace & Disarmament Education Trust) was toured to the Adam Art Gallery, presenting an expanded version of the project to Wellington audiences.

From May 03 The Physics Room became custodian of The Kiosk public art site, located a block away from the project space in a pedestrian area of central Christchurch. Originated by Julaine Stephenson and the Oblique art trust, The Kiosk was renovated and reinstated with the support of Creative Communities and the Christchurch City Council.

The Physics Room Trust sought new Board members in 03, appointing Hermione Bushong (Christchurch), Luit Bieringa (Wellington), Gavin Shepherd (Christchurch) and Susan Ballard (Dunedin). As well as welcoming members from different regions, the Board also aimed to achieve a balance in skills and experience offered with these new appointments. Jessica Johnson held the position of Programmes Coordinator throughout 03, with assistance from Exhibition Technicians Finn Fair and Rachel Brunton. My personal thanks goes to each of the staff and board members, past and present who have all been integral to the organisation. The Curatorial Advisory Panel, consisting of Emma Bugden, Chris Chapman, Sean Kerr and Megan Tamati-Quennell, have all generously contributed their time and knowledge over the year.