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# McClelland

SCULPTURE PARK+GALLERY



## Martin Hill Watershed exhibition

*Internationally renowned artist Martin Hill, with his partner collaborator Philippa Jones, present a profound body of work at McClelland Sculpture Park & Gallery*

McClelland Sculpture Park & Gallery, on the Mornington Peninsula of Victoria, recently announced the majestic art project, **Watershed**, from the artist Martin Hill is to be presented from the 16th February to the 27th April 2014.

Martin Hill and his collaborator Philippa Jones were awarded the inaugural Kenneth Myer Artist's/Writer's Alpine Retreat residency in 2012, at the Whare Kea Chalet high in the Southern Alps in New Zealand, an innovative artist-in-residency program supported by the Louise and Martyn Myer Foundation. The Whare Kea Chalet, an eco-chic, mountaineer's dream, on the Albert burn Saddle is used as a base for heli-skiing during the winter months, and hiking and overnight stays in summer.

Hill and Jones spent 21 days at the chalet, dividing the time into two periods in order to make the most of changing mountain conditions. The **Watershed** exhibition is their response to this unique and inspiring experience.

*"Being awarded this residency at the Chalet enabled us to work in solitude over an extended period at altitude in this remarkable mountain wilderness," says Hill. "Philippa and I have travelled widely and have been making environmental sculptures in remote and wild places for 20 years. This residency was a truly inspirational experience because we could respond to the constantly changing weather in safety and comfort. "*

The **Watershed** Project examines the relationship between human systems and the water cycle. Hill and Jones literally worked with the medium of water in all its forms, from the snow and ice of glaciers, the clouds, the mist and precipitation on the mountains that fill the tarns and alpine wetlands supporting alpine plants and forests while flowing to the valley floor.

*“For months before we began, I researched the world’s serious issues with water and built up an understanding of the unsustainability of the world’s use of water,” Hill states. “Water use and abuse by increasing populations and industrialization is reaching thresholds where demand cannot be met sustainably.”*

The exhibition consists of 25 large photographic prints of sculptures made in the landscape from natural materials such as ice, snow, moss, rock, water and vegetation. The sculptures are for the most part ephemeral, intended to disperse back into the environment from which they were made. As Hill explains, “this cyclical process is what we need to mirror in sustainable human systems”.

One sculpture is a cast ice water bottle with a label stating the cold unsustainable facts on bottled water. Other photographic works use text explicitly to highlight water use.

An additional aspect of the exhibition is an intriguing video which documents one of Hill’s sculptural figures made from snow grass in an alpine tarn at dusk with Mt Aspiring in the background. The figure was set on fire and slowly burns to its destruction. A second video documentary shows the artists making the various works of the exhibition, in the context of the changing weather conditions and the rugged beauty of the mountain retain.

*“As local climbers and artists we have a special affinity with Mount Aspiring National Park,” says Jones. “The opportunity to create works in such a wilderness for so long was of profound value to us.”*

## About | Martin Hill - Philippa Jones

After an international career in design, [Martin Hill](#) decided in 1992, to focus on communicating internationally his sustainable design ideas, by making and disseminating environmental art. Through multiple forms of publishing and exhibitions his environmental art now reaches a global audience.

Hill and Philippa Jones began to collaborate on Hill’s sculptures in 1994 when they met climbing and became partners. Since 1995 they have worked together on the **Fine Line Project**, a global art/science project now nearing its completion. The project consists of 12 ephemeral sculptures located on specific high altitude points along a line that will symbolically link and encircling the earth.

The **Watershed** project is their most recent work and is to be toured in New Zealand.

## Exhibition Details

**Watershed** will be presented from the 16th February to the 27th April 2014 at the McClelland Sculpture Park and Gallery, on the Mornington Peninsula of Victoria, located at 390 McClelland Drive, Langwarrin Victoria 3910.

This exhibition is sponsored by the Louise and Martyn Myer Foundation and the Whare Kea Lodge and Chalet, Wanaka, New Zealand.

McClelland Gallery will be hosting an *Art Chat* public program with artist Martin Hill on Thursday 20 February at 11am.

## For More Information

For more information on exhibitions and programs, contact [McClelland Sculpture Park & Gallery](#) on +61 (0)3 9789 1671.

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