



# ELAM

## ART UPFRONT

THE FOYER ART PROJECT 9 – 23 MARCH 2007

 THE UNIVERSITY  
OF AUCKLAND  
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF  
CREATIVE ARTS AND INDUSTRIES®

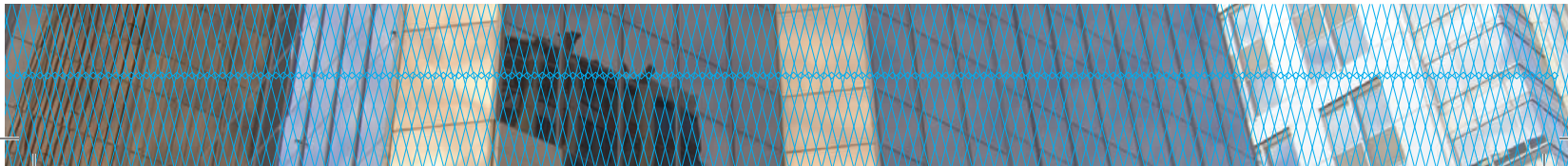
Leading the intrepid viewer through the foyers of Shortland Street's glamorous high-rise buildings, Elam Art UpFront is an art trail with a difference. Unlike sculpture parks where visitors move through a cultivated landscape to gaze at a succession of art works placed in natural surrounds, this exhibition, curated by Andrew Clifford, Curatorial Assistant at the Centre for New Zealand Art Research and Discovery, makes art part of everyday life. But the idea of a special trip being undertaken is still part of the concept, signalled by Amelia Harris and Alla Sosnovskaia's art caravan parked outside the Gus Fisher Gallery. This is

the temporary hub for the creative journey, where the interested traveller can pick up this map of the route.

Six graduating students from Elam School of Fine Arts are exhibiting in nearby foyers: Ana Horomia in the AXA Centre, Megan Hansen-Knarhoi and Brydee Rood in The Shortland Centre's Forsyth Barr Tower, Ji Ah Lee in The Shortland Centre's WHK Gosling Chapman Tower and Eileen Leung in Shortland Chambers. Innovative works, these installations showcase some of the most interesting artists to have emerged from the art school which is New Zealand's oldest, largest and best – Elam School of Fine Arts.

On behalf of the National Institute of Creative Arts and Industries, I would like to thank the companies involved, most particularly The Shortland Centre and The Dorchester Building who have made a financial commitment to the project which has funded the artists' materials. They are to be applauded for their support for innovation and cultivation of a creative knowledge economy.

**Professor Sharman Pretty**  
Dean, National Institute of  
Creative Arts and Industries,  
The University of Auckland





## Megan Hansen Knarhoi

### The Shortland Centre, Forsyth Barr Tower

With a grandmother who crocheted, and a mother whose part-time job was seaming the sides of woollen garments, it is no wonder that Megan Hansen-Knarhoi learned to stitch and bitch at an early age. Working as a Gallery Assistant during *Bright Paradise*, the first Auckland Triennial, in 2003, she met her destiny. Artist Ani O'Neill recruited her to teach visitors how to crochet a flower as part of *The Buddy System*. The rest is craft history – Hansen-Knarhoi was hooked.

The woollen thread led her to complete an MFA at Elam in 2006. Her final submission decorated the gentlemen's conveniences in Mount Street with a pegboard of aphorisms and a full complement of black and white reversible breasts, replete with sugary pink nipples. This kit of barbs and boobs was 'the manifestation of my interest in and continuing research into sex, sexuality, ethnicity, colour stereotypes and

signifiers and religion,' the artist declared, adding that they were also 'tasty titbits'.

Such a heavy load is worthy of at least an underwire, and here it is, a woolly excursion into the hard surfaces of corporate space. Weighty matters get translated into a few looping yarns, hung up for patient passersby to unravel. For once, the artist is content to pose questions about art, craft, beauty and ugliness without the answers being all sewn up.

**Linda Tyler**



**1** The Gus Fisher Gallery  
Kenneth Myers Centre  
74 Shortland Street  
(for info and maps)  
Amelia Harris and  
Alla Sosnovskaia  
carpark



**2** Shortland Chambers  
70 Shortland Street  
Eileen Leung



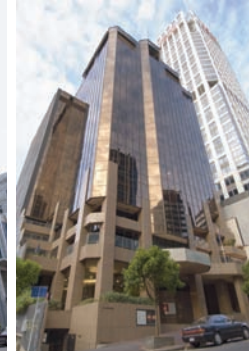
**3** The Shortland Centre  
Forsyth Barr Tower  
55-65 Shortland Street  
Brydee Rood  
Megan Hansen Knarhoi



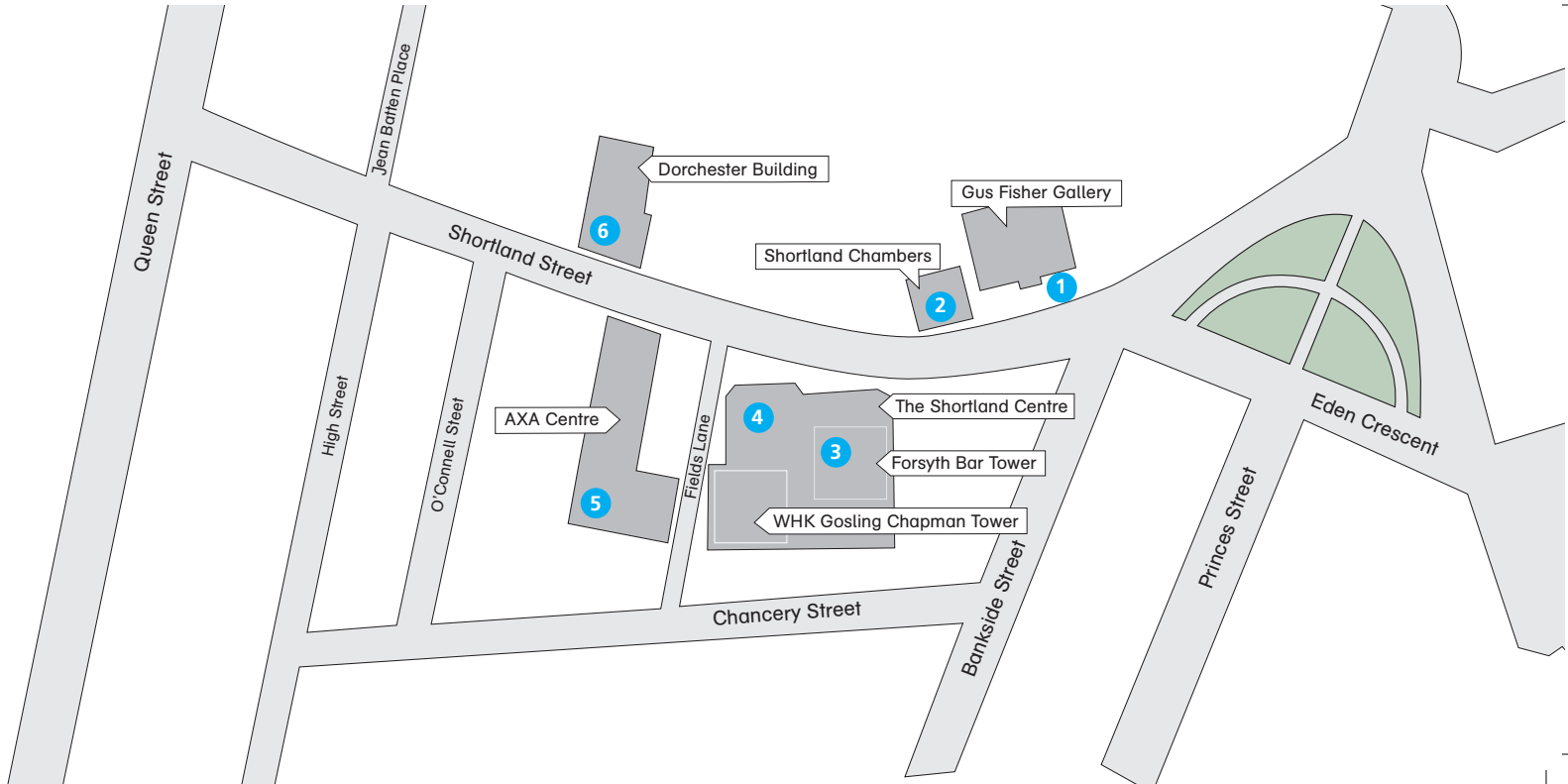
**4** The Shortland Centre  
WHK Gosling  
Chapman Tower,  
51-53 Shortland Street  
Ji Ah Lee



**5** AXA Centre  
41 Shortland Street  
Ana Horomia



**6** The Dorchester Building  
34 Shortland Street  
Karena Way



Queen Street

Jean Barfen Place

High Street

O'Connell Street

Shortland Street

Fields Lane

Chancery Street

Bankside Street

Princes Street

Eden Crescent

Dorchester Building

Gus Fisher Gallery

Shortland Chambers

AXA Centre

The Shortland Centre

Forsyth Bar Tower

WHK Gosling Chapman Tower

6

2

1

5

4

3