



PRESS RELEASE • APRIL 2012

NEW CUBA ST ART GALLERY AND HANDMADE BOUTIQUE ANNOUNCES ITS DEBUT SHOW
'STRIKEONE' SHOWCASING AN EXCITING SELECTION OF ARTISTS AND DESIGNERS

- **WHAT** Matchbox Studios Opening Exhibition, STRIKEONE
- **WHEN** Saturday 19th May 2012, 6.30pm-10.00pm
- **WHERE** Matchbox Studios, Level 1, 166 Cuba St, Te Aro, Wellington

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO ATTEND



Matchbox Studios, an exciting and diverse new art gallery and boutique shop, announce their plans for their grand opening in the creative Cuba St strip on Saturday, 19th May, 2012 from 6:30pm-10:00pm.

The opening group exhibition **STRIKEONE** will showcase a variety of mixed media artworks. STRIKEONE presents Toast Art by Maurice Bennett (*aka 'The Toastman'*), paintings by Felix Harris, Jade Townsend, Rachel Walker, Mel Mephram and Lucinda Gulliver. Also featuring are encaustics by Nicki Stewart, jewellery by Jean Burgers, video installation work by Jonathan Cameron and mixed media pieces by Eryn Gribble. The exhibition opening will be complemented by local musicians including Lukas Jury, fingerstyle percussionist guitarist. Light refreshments and drinks will be served.

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MATCHBOX STUDIOS
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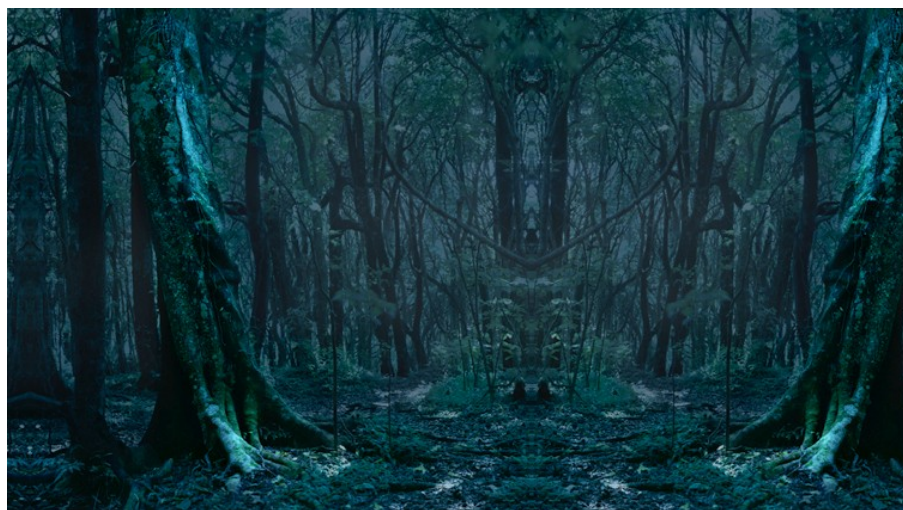
Fête by Felix Harris



Snake Nouveau by Rachel Walker



Changing Quest by Eryn Gribble



Lead me to the meadow (Installation) by Jonathan Cameron

The Matchbox Gallery has been created as a space for artists to be able to exhibit their work regardless of media, genre, personal experience or educational level. The gallery will be curated as collaboration between the gallery and the artist, producing high quality, professional and unique exhibitions. The aim of the gallery will be to appeal to a wide range of people, from the high end art collector to the up and coming artist who has never exhibited before. The gallery space is available for hire on a weekly and fortnightly basis at a rate of \$250 per week, inclusive of services, e.g. full time staffing of exhibitions and free advertising. As Matchbox is committed to helping the growth of local and emerging artists, they only retain a 25% commission of all work sold. Both solo and group exhibitions are welcomed.

The Matchbox Boutique offers a unique shopping experience featuring beautiful and colourful designs, hand crafted by over 30 different local, national and international makers. Matchbox Boutique offers an accessible platform for independent, emerging and established designers to showcase their individual collections. The boutique hires display spaces with no commission, meaning that designers keep 100% of the money that they make from their designs.



**Vintage flower dress by
Samantha Wakelin**



Wooden necklace by Implant



**Appliqué cushion by
Firecracker Designs**

Matchbox Photography Studio is available for hire, with rates ranging from \$55 for an hour, \$180 for a half day to \$280 for a full day. The studio comes fully equipped and has excellent natural light.

ABOUT THE OWNERS Lauren Whalley and Cherry Holahan are the creative force behind Matchbox Studios. Both originally from England they are both passionate about what they do. Since completing her photography BA (Hons.) in the UK, Lauren has worked as a freelance photographer and will continue to produce her work from within the Matchbox photography studio; this will be exhibited later in the year. Lauren, who hates shopping but loves rummaging for old records in second-hand shops, is chief curator at the Matchbox Gallery.

Cherry has a background in the fashion industry and has worked for several independent fashion labels in the UK, Australia and New Zealand. She previously owned independent designers boutique 'Peep Show' in England. As well as managing the Matchbox Boutique, Cherry also has her own label 'threeandfour', this will also be available in the store. Cherry likes political cross-stitching and growing her own vegetables.

MATCHBOX OPENING HOURS Monday-Friday 10-6pm, Saturday 1-5pm & Sunday 12-4pm

PHYSICAL ADDRESS Matchbox Studios, Level 1, 166 Cuba St, Te Aro, Wellington.

WEBSITE www.matchboxstudios.co.nz **EMAIL** hello@matchboxstudios.co.nz

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT Cherry Holahan 0220998575 or Lauren Whalley 0220998573