

Govett - Brewster Art Gallery

The official opening of the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery in New Plymouth tomorrow will celebrate the transformation of the old Regent Theatre into one of the finest art galleries in Australasia.

Visitors can hardly fail to admire the ingenious reconstruction of the interior of the theatre, which gives the new gallery some features unmatched by any other gallery in New Zealand.

Just as impressive as the gallery proper are the elegant administrative area, cafeteria and the outdoor sculpture court.

The gallery's director, Mr John Maynard, expects to have no problems whatever with the exhibitions programme; seven exhibitions are planned during the next eight months, but they are subject to confirmation.

The opening exhibition is "Real Time," by Auckland sculptor and artist Leon Narbey. Spectators who wander through this sophisticated electronic exhibition will trigger sequences of light and sound without knowing it.

Eleven companies sponsoring the exhibition have given money and lent a considerable amount of equipment.



THE GOVETT-BREWSTER ART GALLERY, which has been described as one of the finest galleries in Australasia. At the left is the main part of the gallery (formerly the Regent Theatre), bright in new paint and with a vivid blue veranda. At right are the extensions, fronted by the outdoor sculpture court.

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Wide praise for design

Praise for the design of the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery and optimism about its future have been expressed by painters, sculptors and others concerned with the arts.

Some time ago Mr W. G. Waite, then chairman of the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery Committee, said that when completed the gallery would be second to none in New Zealand in concept and design.

The director of the City of Auckland Art Gallery, Mr G. Docking, said the designs for the gallery submitted by the architect, Mr T. W. Boun, provided a most satisfactory resolution of a difficult designing problem.

"The ideas incorporated in the designs are practical, sensitive and economical," said Mr Docking. "The practical needs of a public art gallery have been well understood by the architect. The handling and storage of works and their movement

throughout the gallery, supervision by staff and security, the flow and comfort of visitors, accessibility of display areas—all have been considered and incorporated in the plans."

The development of the somewhat difficult interior space of the old cinema into five distinct levels was extremely sensitive, said Mr Docking.

The larger and smaller spaces were well related and inter-connected, allowing the visitors interesting vistas and spatial sensations within the building. Works of art of varying dimensions and purposes could be accommodated according to their needs—areas for intimate works and larger spaces for those on a grander scale. The relation of the sculpture court to the gallery building and extension was well conceived and harmonious.

"A public gallery helps to give a city identity," said Mr Docking. "It becomes a generating centre for creative activities in the community."

"It is a place in which visiting exhibitions from overseas and within New Zealand can be properly displayed and where citizens may have immediate visual contact with the culture of the nations and other peoples—its educational benefits on all levels can be immense.

"A well-designed gallery such as this proposed gallery for New Plymouth, when administered with energy and foresight, becomes a living force which helps to meet the spiritual and mental needs of the community," added Mr Docking.

Mr David Peters, then director of the Queen

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THE DIRECTOR of the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, Mr John Maynard.

The cost: \$165,000

The total cost of the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, which will be opened tomorrow by Mr Eric Westbrock, the director of the National Gallery of Victoria, is about \$165,000.

All except \$50,000 of that figure will be met by Mrs M. B. Brewster in the terms of a trust deed entered into between her and the city council.

The council will provide the \$50,000 by a special loan.

The contracts for reconstruction of the old Regent Theatre and the additions to the building were let for \$117,000. The theatre itself and the adjoining property were bought for \$36,000.

Additional sums will be paid for furnishings, architect's fees and sundries.

GOVETT BREWSTER ART GALLERY
OFFICIAL OPENING
Opening Hours "REAL TIME"
FIRST DAY: SUNDAY, 22nd FEBRUARY, 1970
9.00 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.: Special Preview for invited guests. Please present invitations for admission.
2.00 p.m.: Official Opening of Gallery and first exhibition, "Real Time."
2.45 p.m. (approx.) - 5 p.m.: Exhibition open to public.
7.00 p.m. - 9.00 p.m.
OPENING HOURS 23rd FEBRUARY TO 19th APRIL
Monday: Closed
Tuesday: 10.30 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.
Wednesday: 10.30 a.m. - 5.00 p.m., 7.30 p.m. - 9.30 p.m.
Thursday: 10.30 a.m. - 5.00 p.m., 6.00 p.m. - 9.00 p.m.
Friday: 10.30 a.m. - 5.00 p.m., 6.00 p.m. - 9.00 p.m.
Saturday: 10.30 a.m. - 12.30 noon, 1.00 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.
Sunday: 1.00 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.
The Art Gallery Coffee Lounge opens to the public on Tuesday, 24th February, 1970. Opening hours coincide with Gallery hours.
JOHN MAYNARD, Director.

Members of the public are invited to the Opening of the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery and first exhibition, by Mr Eric Westbrock, Director, National Gallery of Victoria, at 2.00 p.m. on Sunday, 22nd February, 1970.

The Official Opening will be held in Queen Street in front of the Gallery. Following the Opening Ceremony members of the public are invited to view the first exhibition, "Real Time," a light and sound environment by Leon Narbey.

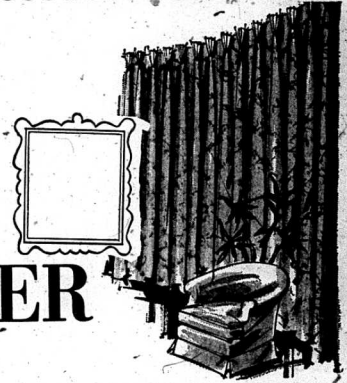
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