



**31 August 2012**

MEDIA RELEASE

## **CONTEMPORARY NEW ZEALAND ART HEADING TO SHANGHAI**

Te Papa is delighted to announce that it has been invited to contribute a selection of contemporary New Zealand art as part of a major international art exhibition for the reopening of the Shanghai Art Museum, China, in October 2012.

*Meridian Lines: Contemporary art from the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa* showcases works by renowned contemporary New Zealand artists Bill Hammond, Ralph Hotere, Ani O'Neill, Michael Parekowhai, John Pule, Yuk King Tan, and Gordon Walters.

'This is an incredible opportunity to present contemporary New Zealand art to Chinese and international audiences,' says Te Papa's Curator of Contemporary Art Sarah Farrar. 'The reopening of the Shanghai Art Museum is a much anticipated event in China, and it is timed to coincide with the 2012 Shanghai Biennale, a high-profile contemporary art exhibition in China.'

Other international museums invited to participate include the British Museum, Kitano Museum of Art, and Maison de Victor Hugo in Paris, among others.

In this auspicious year – the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between New Zealand and China – Te Papa and the Shanghai Art Museum are strengthening the bonds of friendship and culture.

</Ends>

For further information, contact:

Roxan Mathys, Manager Communications (Acting), 029 601 0180, 04 381 7021

[RoxanM@tepapa.govt.nz](mailto:RoxanM@tepapa.govt.nz)

### **Notes for the Editor:**

#### **Background information on the Shanghai Art Museum**

The redevelopment of the Shanghai Art Museum has been the most important cultural construction project of 2011–12. The centre, which now covers an area of 160,000 square metres, is the largest art museum in China.

As a developing international metropolitan city, Shanghai is making great efforts to build itself into a 'cultural metropolis'. The completed Shanghai Art Museum, coupled with the Shanghai Contemporary Art Centre, creates a new hot spot of culture along the Huangpu River. These two centres complement the Shanghai Museum, with its display of ancient arts, to form an impressive suite of art museums.

**Credits of images available on request:**

W D Hammond, *Land list*, 1996, acrylic on folding wooden screen. Te Papa (1997-0009-1)

Ralph Hotere, *Yellow Triptych*, 2001–03, paint on aluminium-zinc alloy, nails. Te Papa, courtesy of © Ralph Hotere, reproduced with permission (2004-0009-1)

Ani O'Neill, *Rainbow country*, 2000–01, wool, stainless steel, Te Papa (2002-0009-1)

Michael Parekowhai, *Atarangi*, 1990, wood, lacquer. Te Papa (2008-0006-1)

John Pule, *Shark, Angel, Bird, Ladder*, 2008, oil paint, enamel, ink, and polyurethane on canvas. Te Papa (2010-0034-1)

Yuk King Tan, *Untitled (Red masks)*, 1998, fabric tassels on wax and plastic masks 1998. Te Papa (1999-0012-1)

Gordon Walters, *Genealogy III*, 1971, PVA and acrylic on canvas, Te Papa © Estate of Gordon Walters, reproduced with permission (1993-0033-1)