Interview: Susan Frykberg

Susan Frykberg is a composer and the coordinator of the *Beyond* exhibition, Peter Rae Gallery, 2 - 26 October 2004. She has an MA in Electroacoustic Music Theatre from Simon Fraser University, Canada, a classics degree in Ancient Greek and Latin and is currently completing a Theology degree from Otago University. She tries to balance spirituality, creativity and good works and volunteers at the Catholic Moran Chapel in the Octagon, in a number of capacities, including as a Gregorian Chant singer.

What is your concept for the upcoming show?

The show is a meeting place for contemporary and experimental arts and the Christian faith. My contribution to the exhibition will be an electroacoustic sound installation created from intertwining the soundscapes of "church" with

Other artists in Beyond include: Claire Beynon, Mary Horn, Shelly Johnson, Maria Kemp and Steve Mulqueen. Claire's work explores ideas around transformation. Mixed media assemblages (using paper, outre materials, wood, wax and stone), explore and reconfigure inherited paradigms. The personal and the historical are presented in new relationships. Mary Horn (a Dominican sister and abstract expressionist) views artistic creativity as a form of speaking in and to the church. Shelly Johnson is looking at the story of the vision of the burning bush and contextualising it within the New Zealand ethos. Maria Kemp explores the land pouring forth speech through oil on board landscapes (Ps 19). Stephen Mulqueen, an installation and jewellery artist, is interested in place names and making objects around objects.



instrumental and environmental sounds. I am also organising a words and music event featuring text from the artists, and other local poets, in combination with local musicians. This will take place at 6:00 on Friday 8th October. I hope we can create a kind of sound-text-art performance with instruments and spoken/sung voice, in dialogue with the visual works of Claire Beynon, Mary Horn, Shelly Johnson, Maria Kemp and Stephen Mulqueen.

Was there a key artistic influence in your life?

I studied at the Centre for Contemporary Arts at Simon Fraser University. It was an interdisciplinary centre where you always had to work alongside many different media - the visual arts, theatre, dance, film and of course music. So my creative thinking tends to cross boundaries. I was also very influenced by Canadian/Dutch visual artist Robert Mulder who combines lush visual environments with music and dance.

Stephen is creating an installation from brassbullet casings transformed into poppies.

John Stringer

