



TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 2012

**ARTIST PROFILE**



Artist Shelley Simpson in front of her paintings in *Like-Comment-Share*.

## Shelley Simpson

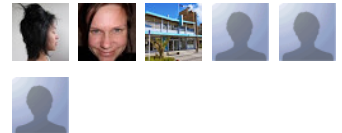
Author: Sophie Keyse

*"I am interested in how this new form of communicating and connecting affects our emotional relationships with others..."*

Shelley Simpson's latest solo exhibition *Like-Comment-Share* (at CEAC until April 15th) features 34 paintings (ink and resin on board) as well as an interactive computer-based application and postcards for visitors to send. In these paintings Simpson is describing the social networks we build in the digital realm: *"I am interested in how this new form of communicating and connecting affects our emotional relationships with others - does the digital environment enhance or restrict our communication? Are we closer to each other or more distant? Are our communications more real or less real? Are we expanding or narrowing our lives?"* The paintings are three specific shapes - an oval, a capsule, and a circle that is divided in half. The split circle represents the brain; the two hemispheres of the earth; and the earthly and ethereal/heavenly realms (and asks where the internet resides). The oval references map-making, specifically the expanded oval showing the globe in one space, whereas the capsule shape introduces the question of whether we are 'self-medicating' by using social media. Are we using it to fill a void within ourselves, and does it work? In addition the range of shapes can all be read as medication. *"Many millions of people use*

FOLLOWERS

Followers (6)



Follow



Projectspace is a blog with contributions from the different arts, performance and cultural groups located on the historic site of Corban Estate in Henderson, Waitakere, New Zealand

CORBAN ESTATE MAP



426 Great North Rd - Henderson  
[click for map]

LABELS

**CEAC** Community  
(16) Exhibition (12)  
Art Class (11) Events (9)  
Studio Artist (9) Summer

*social networking like Facebook on a daily basis. Like - Comment - Share raises the question of what we want from social networking and whether we get it."*

As demonstrated by her latest exhibition, Simpson is specifically influenced by science and scientific developments, especially the relationship between science and our perception of ourselves as humans. When asked which artists she finds particularly influential, Simpson rattles off numerous individuals who work in a variety of media, such as data visualiser David McCandless; expressive painters like Max Gimblett and Judy Millar; sculptors like Louise Bourgeois; video artists like Jed Town, Greta Anderson, Bruce Nauman; photographers like Ann Shelton and Nan Golden; as well as installation artists like Yayoi Kusama. However, her favourite artist at the moment is Roland Flexner, a French artist based in New York City. Manipulating ink and graphite - such as blowing ink bubbles onto paper through a specially made straw to drop instant circular artworks, Simpson primarily loves how Flexner is a "master of his medium - but part of that mastery is allowing the material to behave in its own uncontrolled way".

While not formally trained in the visual arts, Simpson holds a BA in History and has attended several art courses in New York and Auckland, and was most recently a participant in the AMP year-long mentoring programme hosted at CEAC and led by Anne-Sophie Adelys and Andrew Tolhurst. Her range of media is not limited to painting, having created several video projects in the past including the interactive work *Subduction* at ARTSPACE in Auckland. This was a submersive interactive experience where users played a midi keyboard which triggered projected video and audio. At one end of the keyboard the video samples were all natural, while at the other the samples were all based on technology. This work was also produced as a video and was included in the 1998 NZ Film Festival in the Moving Image Centre Short Cuts programme.



*Screen shot of layered video projection, Subduction*

Interaction appears to be a key element of Simpson's art practice, having collaborated at Artstation with Esther Lamb for the project *Hoopla!*. Funded by Creative Communities, *Hoopla!* invited participants to complete a circular, textile-based artwork in a wooden hoop. The hoops were displayed on the walls of the gallery and then returned to the maker at the end of the show.

School (9) Q and A (6) Kyla Mackenzie (4) Corban Estate Arts Centre (3) Matariki (3) Anna Browne (2) Antarctica (2) Corban Estate Gallery Shop (2) Gabby O'Connor (2) Graffiti Wall (2) Local Talent (2) Regan Gentry (2) Suburban Development (2) Teens (2) The Kids Art Festival (2) installation (2) pumice (2) AUT (1) Artspeak (1) Asia NZ Foundation Residency (1) Beijing (1) Boosted (1) Christmas (1) Claire Inwood (1) Corban Family (1) Creative New Zealand Residency (1) Elam (1) Gavin Hurley (1) Jae Hoon Lee (1) Jason Hall (1) Karl Chitham (1) Kas Bos (1) Kate Woods (1) Kathy Barry (1) Kelly King (1) Lonnie Hutchinson (1) MOTH (1) Manukau School of Visual Arts (1) McCahon House Residency (1) Museum of True History (1) Pamela Wolfe (1) Seminar (1) Sopolamalama Filipe Tohi (1) Tanya Ruka (1) Unitec (1) Whitecliffe School of Art and Design (1) World War 1 (1) cafe (1) collage (1) digitally collaged (1) lalava (1) marble (1) moving image (1) new graduates (1) paper panel (1) photography (1) pickets (1) sculpture (1) sculptures (1) visual arts (1)

CORBAN ESTATE ARTS CENTRE



BLOG ARCHIVE

- ▶ 2014 (6)
- ▶ 2013 (42)
- ▼ 2012 (29)
  - ▶ December (3)
  - ▶ November (5)
  - ▶ October (2)
  - ▶ August (1)
  - ▶ July (1)
  - ▶ June (4)
  - ▶ May (3)
  - ▼ April (5)

The Business of Arts  
2012: Master class with




*Class being held in the gallery space while Hoopla! was in progress*

You can check out Simpson’s work in Gallery 36’s upcoming group show **4 Years On** at Pearce Gallery, **April 4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> 2012**. She is also working on completing a number of private commissions as well as developing a new series of paintings that take her current technique in a different, more personal direction.

NO COMMENTS:

POST A COMMENT

Enter your comment...

 Comment as: Shelley Slmpson ▾ [Sign out](#)

[Publish](#) [Preview](#)  Notify me

[Newer Post](#)

[Home](#)

[Older Post](#)

Subscribe to: [Post Comments \(Atom\)](#)

fas...

What doesthe future look like through chil...

@font-face { font-family: "Calibri";}p.MsoNormal,...

Shelley SimpsonAuthor: Sophie Keyse “I am inter...

In April: Upcoming exhibitions

▶ [March \(2\)](#)

▶ [February \(3\)](#)

▶ [2011 \(22\)](#)

▶ [2010 \(38\)](#)

▶ [2009 \(1\)](#)

DISCLAIMER

The opinions expressed on the Project Space blog are that of the individual author. The Corban Estate Arts Centre is not responsible for the accuracy of any of the information supplied by the Project Space blog. Images and contents for each blog entry are copyrighted and are the property of the individual author.

[Assid Abraham Corban info](#)