

3 March 2008

**INAUGRAL RESIDENCY FOR NZ FILM & MULTI-MEDIA ARTIST
TO LIVE IN FRANCE AWARDED**

The James Ormond Wallace Trust today (**Monday March 3 2008**) awarded its inaugural residency for a NZ film and multi-media artist to live and study in France. The residency is for two months commencing in April this year and is based at the 11th century Chateau de la Rongère, Pays de Loire, in north-west France, approximately 1.5 hours train ride from Paris.

The initial recipient of the residency is Nathan Pohio, a leading multi-media artist based in Christchurch. Nathan, a graduate of Ilam School of Fine Arts and of Ngai Tau descent has exhibited extensively over the last decade with his work being shown in exhibitions at both Te Papa and the City Gallery in Wellington, the Christchurch Art Gallery and in Kessel, Germany. It has been noted that he is a promising emerging artist and one to "watch out for".

His most recent exhibition was a solo show "Landfall of a Spectre" at the SOFA Gallery in Christchurch last year where he showed different video versions of a lenticular print of a sailing ship washed with cyan and magenta. Art Critic, Harold Grieves reviewed the exhibition in Art New Zealand where he commented; *"By evocatively tracking across the reflective and alternating points-of-view that the lenticular lens allows, Pohio's films entice the sailing ship not into animation, but rather, an odd oxymoronic static flow. Worked out as a rite of reproduction, Pohio's conjuring seems to be reflecting on the sedentary occupation of imagination itself. It may be better then to call Pohio's films a kind of somnambulistic luring, which having salvaged their source material from the obsolescent trinket pile have finally gifted the lenticular print the kind of cinematic animation they have always promised. Nothing seemed to exemplify this better than the refracted and disjointed pairing of the two ships which dramatically filled the cavernous space of the SOFA with a sensory movement rarely seen in contemporary art."*

Nathan intends to use the residency to study early French cinema with a particular emphasis on the work of George Méliès. Staff at the French Embassy in Wellington have advised the Trust that they are delighted with the proposed residency saying that; *"this is a unique and very exciting cultural opportunity for both nations as it lets artists from New Zealand access the heritage and depth of the French film tradition"*. The Embassy is very keen to assist with access to film archives in Paris as well as introductions to various French film organisations.

Jonathan Smart, owner of the Jonathan Smart Art Gallery in Christchurch said; *"the establishment of this residency for film and multimedia artists is both unique within New Zealand and very important. Digital work is emerging as a very significant art form and it is fantastic to let our artists have the time, distance and stimulation provided by this residency to develop their work. This residency will over time join the other significant overseas residencies awarded in New Zealand such as the Katherine Mansfield residency for writers"*.

The James Ormond Wallace Trust was established early last year to continue the legacy of a talented young artist James Ormond Wallace who had worked in and loved the New Zealand Film Industry. The aim of the charitable trust is to support other NZ film and multi-media artists in developing their abilities. The Trust's first activity was to sponsor a multimedia show at the Christchurch Arts Festival in August 2007. This allowed two very talented young New Zealanders, Nick McGowan and Duncan Sarkies to present for the first time in the South Island their Show "Instructions for Modern Living". This was a great success in Christchurch as it had been at the previous International Arts Festival in Wellington. They have now been invited to present it at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

Michael Sleigh, one of the Trustee's and a former Trustee of the Christchurch Arts Festival said *"we are very excited to award this inaugural residency to such a talented young artist as Nathan. This opportunity has only come about through the generous financial support of many of James Ormond's family and friends over the past year and through the artistic advice of both Guy Boyce, General Manager of the Christchurch Arts Festival and Jonathan Smart, as well as the owners of Chateau de la Rongère who have so generously made this residency possible. We are confident this inaugural residency will be a success and look forward to offering it again next year"*.

Details of the residency are available on the Trust's website www.jowt.org. It is anticipated applications for next year's residency will be called for in October this year.

For further media information please contact:

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