

Peter Deckers

Jeweller/artist, initiator/organiser, curator, educator

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Born: Rotterdam, 05-04-1953

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Currently self-employed artist and artistic director and founder of the HANDSHAKE Project: providing opportunities and activities for emerging NZ artists and the NZ jewellery sector

Education (selected):

1973 – 1977 Technical Institute for jewellery making and design, MTS vakschool, Schoonhoven (NL)

1980 - 1981 DipTeach, CPDB course, Art Academy, Rotterdam

1981 - 1982 Art Academy, Rotterdam

1999 Certificate in Adult Teaching CAT, Whitireia Polytechnic, Porirua (NZ)

2001 – 2003 MFA (honours), Elam school of art, Auckland University, Auckland (NZ)

Solo exhibitions (selected):

1989 *Environmental Distortions*, solo exhibition, gallery 33 1/3, Wellington

2001-2004 *the Reproduction Guild*, installation Guild Unlimited, Craft Victoria, Melbourne | Edinburgh, ('Craft in the 21st Century' conference) | 2004 Te Manawa Museum, Palmerston North

2002-2005 *Greetings from Maori-land*, solo exhibition, sound/jewellery installation, Auckland University, Auckland |

2004 Lopdell House, Titirangi, Auckland | 2005: Expressions, Upper Hutt

2005 *CUSTOMISED*, a survey of jewellery, by Peter Deckers, solo exhibition, Pataka Museum, Porirua

2006 *Mourning Jewellery from the Chernobyl collection*, a Belarusian travel exhibition, solo exhibition, Sherman Galleries, Paddington, Sydney, Australia

2007 *FAR SIGHT*: Solo exhibition at Objectspace, 17 November-22 December, Auckland, New Zealand

2010 *Moving Targets* and *Pleasure Beast*, installations, Thinkspace , solo exhibition of two installations - an investigation of targets and what it can mean to be in the sights of others, Masterworks Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand

2011 *SATELLITE poster-work* for *GIVE & TAKE (Pleasure Beast)*, two simultaneous exhibitions at Auckland Art Fair 2011 and the SeeHere, Wellington (2 connected solo exhibitions)

2013 *de:FORMATION*, installation, solo exhibition, SeeHere gallery, Wellington

2014 *Dove Poo*, installation, solo exhibition, SeeHere gallery, Wellington

2015 *Cyclic Solitaire*, installation, solo exhibition, The SeeHere gallery, Wellington

2016 *Deflating Standard*, solo exhibition, Avid gallery, Wellington

2019 *Asymmetry & Antimatter*, Avid gallery, Wellington (a collaboration exhibition with Becky Bliss)

2020 *Parallax*, solo exhibition, Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, Foxton

2021 *Four Corners*, solo exhibition Dowse Art Museum

2020 *Dusty blends for the square world (Four Corners)*, solo exhibition, the National, 6-30 July 2022

Group exhibitions (selected):

1996 – current participated in each *Fingers* annual group exhibition, Fingers gallery, Auckland

1996 The second New Zealand Jewellery Biennial: The Same but Different, organised and toured by The Dowse Art Museum

1998 The Third New Zealand Jewellery Biennial: Turangawaewae: A Public Outing, organised and toured by The Dowse Art Museum

2001 The fourth New Zealand jewellery exhibition *Grammar: subjects and objects*, Dowse Art Museum, jewellery/sound installation: "Now Then, Who Owns What?" Dowse Art Museum, Hutt City, Govett Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth

2003 Shut-Up series: installation KitschORama, Pataka Museum, Porirua

2004 Dutch artists in New Zealand, 'Acoustic Tile installation' (with sound), Pataka Museum, Porirua

2003 Precious, Hirschfeld gallery (City Art gallery), Wellington

2005 200 rings exhibition, Velvet Da Vinci, San Francisco, USA

2006 Stolen Jewels [group exhibition curated by Octavia Cook, Renee Bevan and Sandra Bushby

2007 The Earrings Show, Velvet Da Vinci, 17 October -25 November, San Francisco, USA

2007 Small Wonders, group exhibition, Object Space, Auckland

2008 Like: An Experiment in Interpretation, Suter Gallery, 13 April- 25 May, Nelson, New Zealand; Hawkes Bay Museum and Art Gallery, 18 October -22 March 2009, Napier, New Zealand.

2008 The Pendant Show: Celebrating 500 Pendants and Lockets by Lark Books (curated by Mike Holmes & Elizabeth Shypertl), Velvet Da Vinci Gallery, October 29-30 November, San Francisco, USA

2008 Brand Spanking New, National Jewellery Show [featured group exhibition curated by Karl Chitham], Wellington New Zealand

2008 Treasure Trove [group exhibition of jewellery and sculpture from invited artists], Masterworks Gallery, 18-16 November, Auckland, New Zealand

2009 Talisman, Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu, 5 December-4 February 2010, Christchurch, New Zealand

2010 Pocket Guide to New Zealand Jewellery, Velvet Da Vinci Gallery, 13 - 28 February, San Francisco

2010 *DANNER-ROTUNDE* Schmuck in der Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich, Germany. Curated by Karl Fritsch

2012-13 Retrospect pays respect to New Zealand contemporary jeweller, Peter Deckers, Pah Homestead, Auckland and the Dowse Art Museum, Wellington

2013 *Multiple Exposures* - Jewelry and Photography, curated by Ursula Newman, MAD, NY

2014 *Schmuck*, Handwerksmesse, Munich

2014 Wunderrüma: New Zealand Jewellery, Handwerk kammer, Munich, Auckland Art gallery, and Dowse Art Museum, Wellington

2015 *Wundermeke*, Fingers gallery, Auckland

2015 Pearl exhibition, Masterworks gallery, Auckland 4 - 27 May

2015 Wear the Wares, Boston, 22 May

2016 Fifty Upper Hutt Heroes, Expressions, Upper Hutt

2016 UTTER, collaboration project with Andrea Daly and Stella Chrysostomou, at Radiant Pavilion, Melbourne

2018 '21 Grams', 2018 Hangzhou Contemporary International Jewelry and Metal Art Triennial

2019 '21 Grams', Gallerie Handwerk, Munich, Germany and CODA Museum, The Netherlands

2019 Schmuck/ Schmock, Northcity4, Melbourne

2019 Brazil jewellery week, guest exhibitor

2020 Anniversary exhibition, the SeeHere, Wellington

Activities, Curation (selected):

1989-2021 *Jewellery coordinator and senior lecturer*, Whitireia NZ

1999 curator of 'Deep' Rings in Fishbowls Dowse Art Museum, Lower Hutt | *Deeper Still* 2000, Eon, Auckland

2006 Co-curator *Jewellery Out of Context* (JOC), The Muse, Sydney | Objectspace, Auckland | Mary E Black Gallery, Halifax, Canada | CODA, Apeldoorn, NL

2007, 14, 15, 16, (17) JEWELtalk (Small Talk), organising seminar series Wellington Jewellers, Toi Pōneke, Wellington

2009 -2015 cofounding member of *The SeeHere gallery*, Wellington

2011 - continue *HANDSHAKE Project*, a mentor and exhibition project for selected NZ jewellers, founder, organiser, curator, artist director, programme designer, web master, editor, photographer, photo editor, exhibition designer. Funded by Creative NZ since 2011

- 2012 *JEMposium, Jewellery or What*, symposium Wellington 10 – 13 Feb 2012, artistic director and organiser (funded by Creative New Zealand)
- 2014 Curator of *Kete*, Whitireia graduate exhibition, NZAFA, Wellington
- 2016 Curation of *SPECIALS*, Residenz Palaz, Munich
- 2018 Curation of *CHAINreaction*, Atta gallery, Bangkok
- 2018 Curator of *Super Positions*, Stanley Street gallery, Sydney
- 2018 Curator of *IWA, New Zealand contemporary Jewellery*, Frame gallery, Handwerksmesse, Munich
- 2018 Co-curator of *JEWELdisplayJEWEL*, Pataka museum, Porirua
- 2018 NZ curator for the NZ-UK collaboration: *TE AO HURIHURI – EVER CHANGING WORLD*, Crypt gallery, London
- 2020 *Parallax*, (curation Dutch artists: Moniek Schrijer, Nina van Duijnhove, Gerda Leenards) at Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, Foxton

Publications (selected):

- 1993 *Two Worlds*, Deckers, P., Craft New Zealand magazine, issue 45, pp12-13 (feature article)
- 1996 *The second New Zealand Jewellery Biennial: The Same but Different*, The Dowse Art Museum, catalogue
- 1998 *The Third New Zealand Jewellery Biennial: Turangawaewae: A Public Outing*, The Dowse Art Museum, catalogue
- 1999 *100 NZ Craft Artists*, Schamroth, H. Random House New Zealand, Auckland (writer)
- 2001 *The fourth New Zealand jewellery exhibition Grammar: subjects and objects'*, The Dowse Art Museum, catalogue
- 2003 *Nose rubbing with Otto*, Deckers P., Lemmel magazine, Australia (writer)
- 2004 *1000 Rings/* editor; Marthe Le Van, introduction by Robert Ebendorf, Lark books, New York
- 2005 *Customised, a survey of jewellery*, by Peter Deckers, 2005, First Editions, Wellington
- 2005 *linherited futures: technology to trap ideas* JMGA Conference -, Baines, R. & Errey, S. RMIT Press, Melbourne (writer)
- 2006 *Choices of the hand, a survey of work from New Zealand jeweller Peter Deckers*, introduction by Stevan Eldred-Grigg, book, First Editions, Wellington
- 2006 Deckers, P., Freeman, W., and Bevan, R. (curators), *HANDSTAND*, SkyCity Convention Centre, Auckland
- 2007 *Jewellery Out of Context (JOC world tour)*, catalogue edited by D Wood
- 2007 *500 Earrings: New Directions in Contemporary Jewelry*, Larks Books, New York
- 2007 *500 Wedding Rings: Celebrating a Classic Symbol of Commitment*, Larks Books, New York
- 2008 *500 Pendants & Locketts: Contemporary Interpretations of Classic Adornments*, Larks Books, New York
- 2009 *On Location, making stories: siting, citing, sighting*, ed Karin Findeis, JMGA, Sydney
- 2009 *The Compendium Finale of Contemporary Jewellers '2008'*, Andy Lim, Co-edited by Pforzheim Museum of Jewellery and Coda Museum Apeldoorn, Darling Publications, Munich
- 2009 *500 Plastic Jewelry Designs*, Lark Books, New York
- 2009 *Handstand: Unfamiliar and Innovative Contemporary Jewellery*, exhibition catalogue, editor Peter Deckers, Wellington
- 2010 *Pocket Guide to New Zealand Jewelry*, dr Damian Skinner, Velvet Davinci, San Francisco
- 2011 *21st Century Jewelry: The Best of the 500 Series*, Marthe Le Van (co-judging and participation), Lark Books
- 2011 Marthe Le Van, *21st Century Jewelry: The Best of the 500 Series*, (co-judging and participation), Lark Books
- 2012 *500 Rings New Directions in Art Jewelry (500 Series)*, Bruce Metcaff/Marthe Le Van, Lark Books
- 2013 *Beijing International Jewelry Art Bienalle*, catalogue
- 2013 Peter Deckers & Mary Jane Duffy, *HandShake, NZ jewellers connect with their heroes*, book
- 2014 NOOVO, special edition: <http://www.noovoeditions.com/NOOVO/PeterDeckers.html>
- 2014 *Wunderrūma* catalogue

- 2014 Multiple exposures, Mad Museum, book
- 2014 Damian Skinner & Kevin Murray: *Place & Adornment: A History of Contemporary Jewellery in Australia and New Zealand*, book
- 2014 Damian Skinner: *Fingers: Jewellery for Aotearoa New Zealand*
- 2005-2016 (co-editor/writer/producer/editor/photographer) 9 Whitireia jewellery catalogues: Origins (05), Dressing Up (06), Drawn (07), Forgery (08), Cameo (09), What Is (10), The Complete Question Mark (11), Speak (12), JEWELS of Whitireia (16)
- 2016 *SPECIALS: Twenty-one jewellery artists from New Zealand*, editor Peter Deckers, published by JEMbooks
- 2017 *SPANpoints*, catalogue with writings from Hilde de Decker, Kim Paton, Tanel Veenre, Peter Deckers, Sofia Björkman, a gazette from London-based 'Dialogue Collective' and introductions to the practices of the twelve Handshake 3 artists. Editor Peter Deckers, JEMbooks publication
- 2017 *Contemporary Jewellery in Context: a Handshake Blueprint*, with contributing writers Kim Paton (NZ), Liesbeth den Besten (NL), Sian van Dyk (NZ), Peter Deckers (NZ), Benjamin Lignel (Fr), Editor: Peter Deckers Design: Becky Bliss. Publisher: Arnoldsche, Germany

Writings (selected):

- 1993 Two Worlds, Deckers, P., Craft New Zealand magazine, issue 45, pp12-13 (feature article)
- 2003 Nose rubbing with Otto, Deckers P., Lemmel magazine, Australia (writer)
- 2005 – 2012 (co-editor/writer/producer) Whitireia jewellery catalogues: Origins (05), Dressing Up (06), Drawn (07), Forgery (08), Cameo (09), What Is (10), The Complete Question Mark (11), Speak (12)
- 2006 Jewellery Out of Context (JOC), publication, 2006, First Editions, Wellington
- 2007 Jewellery Out of Context (JOC world tour), catalogue edited by D Wood, Astra Print, Wellington
- 2009 Handstand: Unfamiliar and Innovative Contemporary Jewellery, exhibition catalogue, editor Peter Deckers, Wellington
- 2009 On Location, making stories: siting, citing, sighting, ed Karin Findeis, JMGA, Sydney
- 2010 The meaning and communication of jewellery
(<http://www.theseehere.com/readhere/themeaninandcommunicationofjewellery.html>)
- 2013 Overview #14, the Munich edition, feature article (email distribution of 500 international members)
- 2014 Pilgrimage to Munich, ArtNews magazine, winter issue
(<http://handshake2dotcom.files.wordpress.com/2014/03/pilgrimage-to-munich-artnews-article.pdf>)
- 2014 Noovo magazine special: <http://www.noovoeditions.com/NOOVO/PeterDeckers.html>
- 2014 Overview #18, feature article Wunderrüma, *Two exhibitions in Two locations*
- 2015 Jewellery frontiers' virtual and analogue HANDSHAKE
<https://handshakeproject.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Jewellery-frontiers-HS2-article.pdf>
- 2016 *SPECIALS: Twenty-one jewellery artists from New Zealand*, editor Peter Deckers, published by JEMbooks
- 2016 UTTER Babel: <https://utterproject.wordpress.com/2017/08/21/utter-babel/>
- 2017 SHOW it ALL, <https://handshakeproject.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Show-it-ALL-by-Peter-Deckers.pdf>
- 2017 *SPANpoints*, catalogue with writings from Hilde de Decker, Kim Paton, Tanel Veenre, Peter Deckers, Sofia Björkman, a gazette from London-based 'Dialogue Collective' and introductions to the practices of the twelve Handshake 3 artists. Editor Peter Deckers, JEMbooks publication
- 2017 *Contemporary Jewellery in Context: a Handshake Blueprint*, with contributing writers Kim Paton (NZ), Liesbeth den Besten (NL), Sian van Dyk (NZ), Peter Deckers (NZ), Benjamin Lignel (Fr), Editor: Peter Deckers Design: Becky Bliss. Publisher: Arnoldsche, Germany
- 2019 How original is original? <https://handshakeproject.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Show-it-ALL-by-Peter-Deckers.pdf>

Speaker:

2004 Inherited Futures, Technologies to Trap Ideas, JMGA Conference: RMIT, Melbourne
2007 SmallTalk , Toi Pōneke arts center, Wellington: two papers about education and making practices
2006 Jewellery in and out of context. In Proceedings of On Location Making Stories: Siting, Citing, Sighting, 12th Biennial Jewellers and Metalsmiths of Australia (JMGA) Conference, 26-29 January
2013 Interactive Partners. Participation + Exchange, the 15th Biennial Jewellers and Metalsmiths Group of Australia Conference (keynote speaker) 12-14 July 2013, Brisbane
2014, 15, 16, 17 JEWELtalk, Toi Pōneke

Collections (selected):

1975- continue Private collections
2001 Dowse Art Museum acquisition
2008 James Wallace arts trust acquisition
2014 Powerhouse collection acquisition
2015 Danner Collection, The International Design Museum Munich, Germany, acquisition
2015 The Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, acquisition
2017 Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide
2022 Dowse Art Museum acquisition

Awards (selected):

1990 access workshop grand, Creative NZ
2006 curation grand for HandStand, Creative NZ
2006 Jewellery Out of Context, world tour, international curation grand, Creative NZ
2006 Jewellery Out of Context, the book, publication grand, Creative NZ
2011 Handshake Project, project grand, Creative NZ
2011 *HandShake, NZ jewellers connect with their heroes*, book grand
2014 Curators 'travel grand, Creative NZ
2014 – 2019 Handshake Project, through the kahikatea project funding scheme, Creative NZ
2014 – current Handshake Project, through the kahikatea funding scheme, Creative NZ

Other (selected):

1981 -1985 Co-founder member Limits workshop/studio collective, Rotterdam (NL)
1981- 1985 Co-founder member Limits Gallery, Den Briel (NL)
1981 – 1985 Part time teaching at the Werkschuit, Gouda, The Netherlands
1985 Emigrated to New Zealand
1988 – 2021 Whitireia New Zealand, jewellery coordinator/program leader, senior tutor (part time)
1999 – 2000 Board member Craftinfo Organisation (Nga Taonga Hine-te-iwa-iwa)
2001 Access Workshop Grant, CNZ
2004 Art news, Corner, K, Wellington, New Zealand, summer 2004, p 21
2004 Radio NZ interview with Lyn Freeman
2005 Spot Line on Peter Deckers, editorial, House and Garden Magazine, September 2005, p66
2005 Jewellery in the Crown, Amery M, review article, Dominion Post, Wellington 23-09, B16
2006 CNZ grand for Jewellery Out of Context, Sydney
2007 CNZ grand for JOC world tour (Canada and the Netherlands)
2007 Organisation for SmallTalk, hui/forum, Wellington with Liesbeth den Besten and Love Jönsson.
2008 (acquisition) Farsight installation with 80 objects, Rannoch Upper Gallery, The James Wallace Trust and Collection, Auckland, New Zealand.
2008 - 2011 Arts advisor Object art, CNZ
2010 CNZ grant for Handshake project (founder and artistic director) of the Handshake Project
2011 CNZ grant for Handshake publication

2012 JEMposium, Jewellery or What, symposium Wellington 10 – 13 Feb 2012
 (<http://www.jemposium.co.nz/>), artistic director and organiser (funded by Creative New Zealand)

2012 Ringmaster, feature article by Mark Amery, the Listener March 10-16 2012

2012 Curator's travel and stipend grant (Creative New Zealand) to Schmuck and Talente, Munich

2012 Publication and exhibition, Munich grant (Creative New Zealand) for two Handshake projects

2013 Masterclass: Small Object photography for publication, Griffin University, Brisbane, Australia

2013 Radio NZ interview (Arts on Sunday):
<http://www.radionz.co.nz/national/programmes/artsonSunday/audio/2557978/the-handshake-project>

2013 Handshake Project awarded kahikatea Creative NZ funding (3 year project)

2013 Stone, Bone and Shell, interview with Lisa Walker:
<http://www.tepapa.govt.nz/WhatsOn/allevents/Pages/BoneStoneShell.aspx>

2014 Radio NZ interview: <http://www.radionz.co.nz/national/programmes/standing-room-only/audio/20149577/a-two-way-street-handshake2>

2015 podcast interview: <https://soundcloud.com/thedowse/episode-17-in-the-80s-i-could-even-make-a-potato-sell>

2014 Bone Stone and Shell seminar speaker, Tepapa Tongarewa, 20 Oct,
<http://www.tepapa.govt.nz/WhatsOn/allevents/Pages/BoneStoneShell.aspx>
 on line recording: <https://www.hightail.com/download/OGhjT0NaQk5kMnRnRXNUQw>

2015 Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, acquisition (15 brooches)
<http://avidgallery.blogspot.co.nz/>

2015 Organiser of SCHMUCKtalk seminar, Toi Pōneke, Wellington (29 May)

2015 *Peter Deckers: Deflating Standard*, by Susan Cummins, AJF article:
<http://www.artjewelryforum.org/artists/peter-deckers-deflating-standard>

2016 Handshake Project awarded kahikatea Creative NZ funding (3-year project) Creative director

2016 Design and coordination of the Handshake project website: <https://handshakeproject.com/>

2016 Overview issue 26: Specials, a Handshake Alumni show by Peter Deckers

2017 talk interview on creating artist support networks with Peter Deckers:
<https://soundcloud.com/user-423682401/urban-dreams-podcast-2-on-looking-after-each-other-1>
<http://urbandreambrokerage.org.nz/urban-dreams-podcast/2017/9/1/on-taking-care-of-each-other-with-herbee-bartley-and-peter-deckers>

2019 Handshake Project awarded kahikatea Creative NZ funding (3-year project) Creative director

2022 Design and coordination of the Aotearoa Jewellery website: Aotearoa Jewellery

Work experiences (selected entries):

1977 - 78 Work experience, jewellery workshop De Vaals, Schoonhoven,

1979 – 80 Work experience jewellery workshop, Kathmandu Nepal

1980 Apprenticeship part-one: jewellery workshop l'Artican, Rotterdam and

1980 Apprenticeship part-two: Jack van Osnabrugge jewellery workshop and gallery, The Hague

1980 – 1985 Part time jewellery tutor, de Werkschuit, Gouda (NL)

1980 – ongoing Self-employed jewellery making and exhibition practice (NL and NZ)

1989 – 2021 Educational projects: part time senior tutor – coordinator of the jewellery programme, lecturer in Visual Arts (BAppA): Whitireia Polytechnic, Porirua (NZ) and Te Auaha, Wellington

2000-ongoing Curation/organisation practice and projects coordination

2002 – 2011 design and build own studio and house in the Akatarawa's, Upper Hutt, NZ (includes all trades)

2006-ongoing Publication projects (JEMbooks publishing)

2011 – ongoing Handshake project coordination (artistic director, editor, exhibition design, curator, photographer, photo editor, writer)

Hyperlinks of interest:

ISOLATION AND GLOBAL SAMENESS. ABOUT CRITIQUE,

<https://handshakeproject.com/bio-peter-deckers/>

<https://aotearoajewellery.org.nz/about/>

Peter Deckers *AJF interview*

Fingers gallery *(gallery)*

AVID *(gallery)*

<https://handshakejewellery.com/curator/>

<https://www.thebigidea.nz/profile/peter-deckers>

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