

## Celebration — Fisher Gallery.

**T**HIS is a collection of paintings, sculpture and photographs representing 27 artists and curated by Robert Ellis.

Quite what is being celebrated is hard to determine. The exhibition does not seem to be able to make up its mind whether it wants to celebrate love, contemporary New Zealand art, or both.

The inclusion of works about personal attitudes and relationships by women artists **Pauline Thompson, Jane Zusters, Gil Hanly** and **Jackie Fahey**, imply the former — but that's about all on that theme. The overall impression is that this is a collection of mainstream, middle-career artists, of whom the decision to include some work seems eclectic to say the least.

I found the exuberance in the painting of **Jenny Dolezel** and the wall hanging, which includes a plastic Mickey Mouse, by **Don Driver** the most appealing for their festive atmosphere and playfulness.

The words of **Ralph Hotere**, *A Union Jack?* and **Emare Karaka**, *In the Spirit of the Treaty II*, can be appreciated for attention to concerns that extend beyond "l'art pour l'art," though one would have thought they might have little to celebrate. I am sure the irony was intentional.