

Acclaimed artist shows work

One of New Zealand's most acclaimed contemporary artists has returned to his home turf to stage his first major solo show.

Artist John Reynolds, who grew up in Howick and is a Pakuranga College old boys, saw his exhibition open at the Fisher Gallery last Friday.

Entitled "Eureka School" the show consists of a series of large-scale works and several smaller pieces, which have been created especially for the Fisher Gallery.

The inspiration for the show came from his recent visit to Spain for the opening of the "Distance Looks Our Way" exhibition in Madrid, which coincided with Expo.

Mr Reynolds says, while he was there, he spent time studying Spanish masters like Goya, Valasquez and the Prados collection of Romanesque frescoes.

"I'm very interested in the cultural differences and expression between New Zealand and Spanish art and how the two predominant religions in Spain have shaped art there," he says.

Reynolds, own show is formed around his largest work, "Eureka School", an interpretation of Christian and Islamic religions in Spain.

The 8.4 metre by 2.4 metre work is made up of seven panels and has a narrative structure similar to the Islamic art he discovered in many of the country's mosques.

"Eureka School" refers to these two great traditions, which is apparent in so much of the art I saw in Spain," says Reynolds



John Reynolds

whose work is recognised as unique in New Zealand for the way he has created his own language, symbols and vocabulary.

He is accomplished in several other art mediums and has worked for the Listener magazine as a photographer in the past.

The gallery is also featuring works by two well-known Auckland artists: "Aeroplanes and Clouds 1986" — a wooden installation by Barry Lett and "Notes for the House Officer" — a series of sculptures by Derrick Cherrie.

The three shows run until May 23.