

ARTS

Gender roles explored

The Fisher Gallery in Pakuranga has two new exhibitions including work of Auckland photographer Deborah Smith and Cantabrian trio Margaret Dawson, Mary Kay and Julia Morison.

The work of the three Christchurch based artists is an exhibition combining photography and painting, which critically explores gender roles in New Zealand.

Winner of the Moët and Chandon Art Award in 1990, Julia Morison's work explores the body as a machine in relation to mental idealism and the construction of mythologies.

Margaret Dawson disguises and photographs herself as various types of woman from typical social roles.

Mary Kay creates works that examine the cultural codes that construct the female role.

All three artists are working within a broad feminist framework that will have a general appeal to all gallery visitors.

This exhibition is touring NZ with the assistance of the NZ Art Gallery Directors' Council and continues until Sunday February 17.

Auckland photographer Deborah Smith has a photographic installation named *Flambeau* which runs to the same date.

Her laser prints are a personal response to being in Naples and



ON DISPLAY: Auckland photographer Deborah Smith with one of her laser prints *Singe* at the Fisher Gallery in Pakuranga.

combine religion and sensuality.

One of her prints is of the famous statue *Venus de Milo* in the Louvre in Paris and is titled *Singe*.

Smith also incorporates rosary beads and prints in the

shape of crosses in her installation.

She attended Elam Art School for four years and has since worked for magazines such as *Metro*, *More* and *Australian Vogue*.



INNOVATIVE ART: The Fisher Gallery's Restart fundraising assistant Ms Suzi Campbell pictured with Julia Morison's *Quiddities I-X*.