

[FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE]

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A jump, a beat, a rhythm, a hop. Even a joyful thing.

Anoushka Akel

Kim Pieters

Hop Scotch

July 13 – August 18, 2012

Artspace is pleased to announce **Anoushka Akel** and **Kim Pieters** in *Hop Scotch*, showing until August 18. The exhibition brings the two artists together and to Artspace for the first time.



Artspace Director Caterina Riva first encountered Pieters' work on a visit to Dunedin in 2011 where she was introduced to Pieters and shown around her studio. That meeting stayed fresh in her mind, so that a few months later when she visited Akel in her Auckland studio, she met a different painter, but a similarly interesting example of painterly research, Riva says "some time after those encounters, the two separate conversations on art, life and painting started to combine in my head and I decided it was time to approach both artists with the invitation to make a show at Artspace".

To go beyond simply choosing works from their studios, Riva asked the artists to think of a show together "I was interested in bringing myself as well as the artists outside of their comfort zones" says Riva. This approach has thus far resulted in the inter-city exchange of studio visits, readings, swapped audio, You Tube videos, reviews and email correspondence and a deeper understanding of each other's practice.

Through this process Riva became interested in the different trajectories that made Kim and Anoushka into the artists that they are now, the different aspirations, the first being self-taught and having a career spanning 20 years, while the second coming from an academic background and still developing her own language as a painter.

Hop Scotch presents Pieters' and Akel's work side by side. Pieters, paints onto found demolition boards, drawn to a surface that possesses a history of its own, while Akel uses small sized canvases.

The two artists marks, are a negotiation of intuition and composition, their painterly gestures could be read by the viewer through an analytic lens, but simultaneously leave an openness of interpretation that goes beyond formal criteria and allows for something else to happen. A jump, a beat, a rhythm, a hop. Even a joyful thing.

Anoushka Akel (1977) is an artist based in Auckland. She received her MFA from Elam School of Fine Arts in 2010. Selected exhibitions include: *Paintings Paintings*, 2011, Window Gallery, University of Auckland; *Picnic on a Frozen River*, 2009, B4321 Project Space.

Kim Pieters (1959) is an abstract painter. She has for many years also produced photographs, improvisational film and music, from her Dunedin studios. Selected exhibitions include: *matisse's armchair* (2011) and *something possible, or i will suffocate* (2009) both at Bowen Galleries, Wellington; *experimentum linguae* (2009) at the Adam Gallery, Victoria University.

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More information is available on the ARTSPACE website www.artspace.org.nz or by contacting Leah Mulgrew on +64 9 3034965 or email media@artspace.org.nz