

## 2008 Basil Sellers Art Prize

### Richard Lewer

Richard Lewer's personal mantra is 'skill, discipline and training', which the artist pursues in both sport and the practice of making art. For Lewer, sport is a vehicle through which to explore the social fabric of a community. The artist has literally integrated athletic training into his practice, which has culminated in performances incorporating boxing, wood-chopping and table-tennis.

Richard Lewer was born in 1970 in Hamilton, New Zealand, and arrived in Australia in 1997. He lives in Melbourne. In 2000, Lewer completed a Master of Visual Art at the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) and has recently participated in several artist-residency programs including at the Cage, Drawing Department, VCA, Melbourne (2007); St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne (2006); Victorian Institute of Sport, Melbourne (2005); and the Universal College of Learning, Wanganui, New Zealand (2004). Since the late 1990s, he has exhibited widely in Australia and New Zealand. Selected group exhibitions in Australia include *Crime lines*, Sophie Gannon Gallery, Melbourne (2007); *Other worlds*, King Street Gallery, Sydney (2007); *Game on!: sport and contemporary art*, the Ian Potter Museum of Art, the University of Melbourne (2006); *Who cares*, Boutwell Draper Gallery, Sydney (2006); and, in New Zealand, *Commodity and delight*, Sarjeant Gallery, Wanganui (2006); *A rear window*, the Physics Room, Christchurch (2004); *Break*, Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth (2003); and *Practice*, Adam Art Gallery, Victoria University of Wellington (2003). Lewer is represented in Australia by Block Projects, Melbourne, and in New Zealand by Oedipus Rex Gallery, Auckland.

- Gardiner, Sue, 'The trans-Tasman art shuffle', *Art News New Zealand*, vol. 21, no. 2, 2001.
- McAuliffe, Chris, *Game on!: sport and contemporary art*, the Ian Potter Museum of Art, the University of Melbourne, 2006.
- Parker, Daniel, 'Spaces', *RealTime*, no. 45, 2001.
- Rainforth, Dylan, 'Resident evil', *Art New Zealand*, no. 113, 2004.
- Ryan, Vin, 'Adrift in Melbourne: the trans-Tasman challenge', *Art New Zealand*, no. 101, 2001.