

## Basil Sellers Art Prize 2010

### Richard Lewer

Richard Lewer's personal mantra, 'skill, discipline and training', is analogous to both his art making and pursuit of sport. For Lewer, sport is about relationships and community, camaraderie and belonging. Working in painting, drawing, video and animation, Lewer 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 Hamilton, New Zealand, in 1970, and arrived in Australia in 1997. He lives and works in Melbourne. Recent group exhibitions include *Don't trust the artist*, Ivan Dougherty Gallery, Sydney (2009); *I walk the line: new Australian drawing*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney (2009); and *Better places*, Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts (2008–09). Solo exhibitions include two major surveys, *I must learn to like myself: a recent survey of works by Richard Lewer*, Waikato Museum, Hamilton, New Zealand (2010); and *Nobody likes a show off*, Monash University Museum of Art, Melbourne (2009); as well as *You can't win them all*, OREXART, Auckland (2010); *10 days in Gunbalanya*, Hugo Michell Gallery, Adelaide; and *The fourteen stations of the cross*, Oedipus Rex Gallery, Auckland (2008). Recent awards include the Maddocks Venice Art Award (2009), and the Wallace Trust Paramount Award, Auckland (2008). Lewer has participated in several artist-residency programs including the International Studio and Curatorial Program (ISCP, New York) in 2010; a studio residency at Gertrude Contemporary Art Spaces (2008–09); and the McCahon House Residency, Titirangi, New Zealand (2008). Lewer was a finalist in the 2008 Basil Sellers Art Prize.

Richard Lewer is represented by Fehily Contemporary, Melbourne; Hugo Michell Gallery, Adelaide; and OREXART, Auckland.

#### Further reading:

- Hammond, Kirrily, 'Skill, discipline and training: process and materiality in the work of Richard Lewer', *Nobody likes a show off*, Monash University Museum of Art, Clayton, Vic., 2009.
- Pound, Patrick, 'Surface scratches', *You can't win them all*, OREXART, Auckland, New Zealand, 2010.
- Rainforth, Dylan, 'Resident evil', *Art New Zealand*, no. 113, 2004.
- Simpson, Peter, 'Richard Lewer: ninety days in Titirangi', *Art New Zealand*, vol. 130, 2009.
- Sullivan, Lisa, *True crime: murder and misdemeanour in Australian art*, Geelong Gallery, Vic., 2008.