

**The 9<sup>th</sup> Changchun China International Sculpture Symposium**

**Proposal for  
“Kaituna” Sculpture**



**Designed by Sam Ludden**

**Masterton, Wairarapa**

**New Zealand**

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Name	Sam Ludden		Gender	M	Nationality	New Zealand/ Kiwi
BOD	22/11/1976	Occupation	Potter/ Sculptor		Post Code	5901
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Address	26 Victoria Street, Masterton , Wairarapa, New Zealand					

### Resume

My interest in ceramics and sculpture began at 15 working with a well-known local artist, Paul Melser. He supported and encouraged me and from there I attended art college to study Ceramics Design and Production. On completion of the Diploma Course I traveled to Europe and continued my studies in pottery and sculpture in the north of England and south of France. Since my return to NZ seven years ago I have established a pottery studio with two kilns, a large workshop and a showroom. I have a recognizable style and have produced a large body of work. This includes solo exhibitions at Terra Terre in France and at Aratoi Museum of History and Culture in Masterton, a joint exhibition at River East Gallery in Greytown and a number of group exhibitions around New Zealand. In January 2008 I was accepted to exhibit at the "Shapeshifter" Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition at the New Dowse Public Gallery in Lower Hutt. This [New Zealand International Festival of the Arts 2008](#) event features over 50 exciting works by emerging and established Kiwi sculptors. I am successfully selling my works through several galleries around New Zealand. I have played a leading role in the creation of "Main Artery" a collective of artists and craftspeople promoting Wairarapa art and I am currently Chairperson of this group. I have also been active in promoting Culture and the Arts in my community regularly working with schools and community groups. Most recently, I was the sole artist selected to submit a proposal for a large public sculpture in Masterton, commissioned by the Masterton Trust Lands Trust. I am committed and passionate about the Arts in my region and it would be an honour to represent Wairarapa artists in China.

### Brief Introduction of Proposed Sculpture

Title: Kaituna

Dimensions: see below

Material: Bronze

Color: Bronze

Concept:

My sculpture 'Kaituna' represents the traditional stories, passed down from generation to generation, of the New Zealand native eel. It is homage to the ecology of the rivers and waters of our world. 'Kaituna' is the name of a local swimming place on the Waingawa river just out of Masterton. It is a Maori name for 'place of eel food' which is an indication of the past abundance of eels as a food source. The natural world of our land and our rivers are of huge cultural and historical significance to the people of Aotearoa/New Zealand. Eels are iconic creatures that have inspired countless stories over the centuries told by young and old alike. It is my hope that this sculpture visually communicates those stories in a way that increases understanding of NZ culture and inspires people across cultures to work together in peace to protect and preserve our natural world.

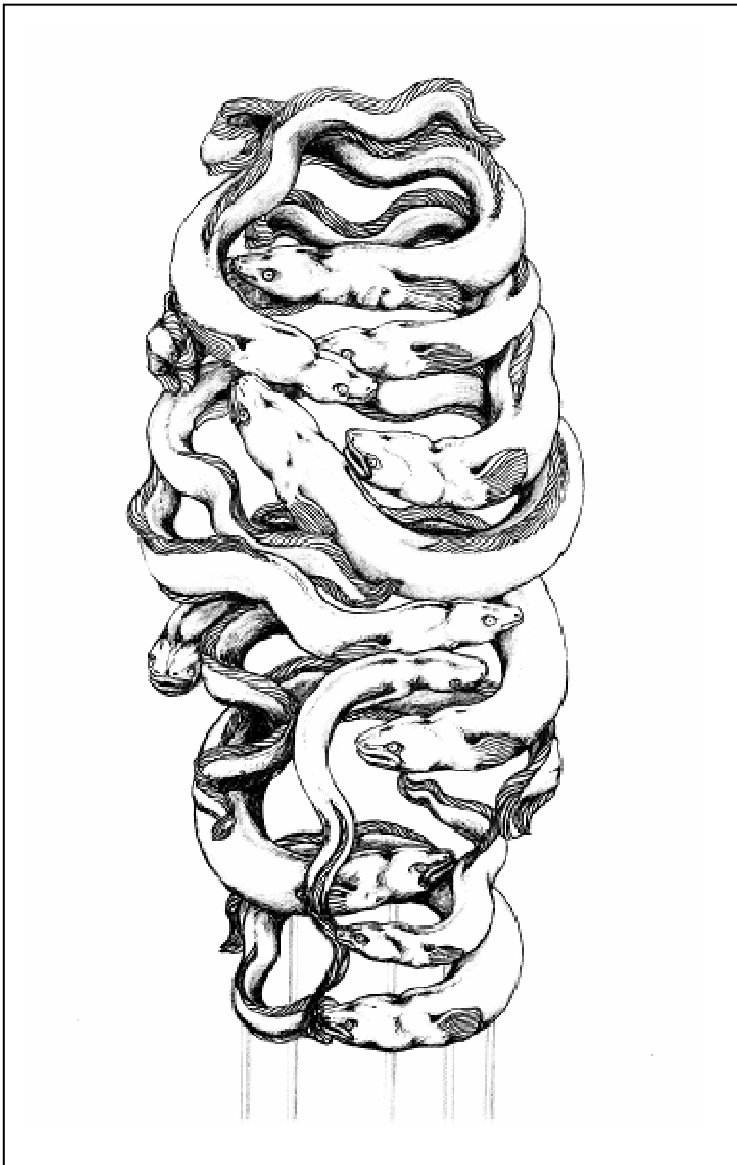
Signature:

# “KAITUNA”

## SCULPTURE DESIGNS

My sculpture designs are named after my local river, the “Kaituna” in Masterton. I have presented three different designs for consideration. These designs would look fantastic installed in or near to a water feature such as a lake, stream, pond or fountain but will also be effective if standing alone in a landscape.

### Design 1 – Artists Preference



The form of this eel sculpture is based on the shape of Maori traditional eel nets which are called ‘hinaki’. The work will be cast in bronze steel rods attached at the bottom set into a base. There will be 18-20 eels of two different sizes (large and small) which will I will make in clay and then cast in bronze. Once all eels are ready they will be welded together into the ‘hinaki’ form.



**Dimension:** The large eels are approximately 900mm- 1m long. The small eels are approximately 450mm- 500mm long. This sculpture design will stand approximately 2.5m- 3m tall.

## Design 2

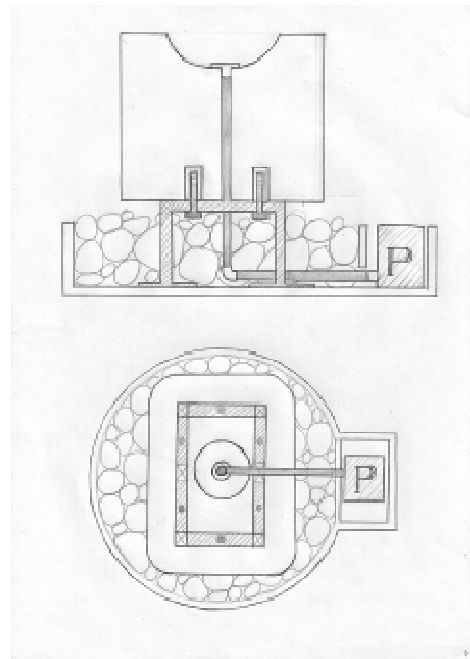
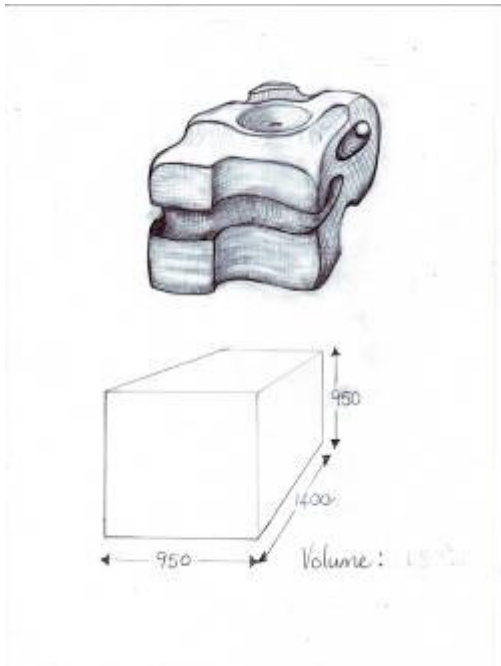
This design is a combination of the two sculpture photos below. It is a composition designed to complement the natural landscape of the Changchun Sculpture Park. My vision is a large circular composition with bronze eels spiraling around at different depths, all positioned just above the water.



**Dimensions:** 12 large eels and 12 small eels mounted on stainless steel rods. Each large eel is approximately 900mm- 1m long. Each small eel is approximately 450mm- 500mm long. The total space taken up by the sculpture composition will be approx 2.5m – 3m in diameter and approx 450mm high from the surface of the water.

### Design 3

This sculpture design explores the idea of the environment or habitat of the eel and how they interact within it. I have recently discovered that eels mean more and have more substance as sculpture, when they interact with each other and their environments.



**Dimensions:** This sculpture consists of a cast concrete form (as seen above) with cast bronze eels fitted into the contours of the cast form. The concrete form will be approximately 950mm, 950mm, 1400mm and weigh approx 3 tonnes. There will be 6 large eels and 5 small eels attached with brackets to the form. The Sculpture will rest on a steel frame just above the ground to give the illusion of the form floating. I would like water to be pumped up through the sculpture and to spill over the form. The water would then be caught below the sculpture and recycled.

## **SAM HAMUERA LUDDEN**

### **Dirty Fingers Pottery**

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### **EXHIBITIONS/ACHIEVEMENTS**

#### **2008**

Shapeshifter – Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition, The New Dowse Public Gallery (part of the NZ International Festival of the Arts), Wellington (Group Exhibition)

Selected for Wairarapa Review Art Award

#### **2007**

Kuripuni Public Sculpture Commission – Selected to design a public sculpture for the Masterton Trust Lands Trust (pending)

Sculpture in the Country – Exhibition of Garden Sculptures by leading NZ Artists, Awaiti Gardens, Carterton, NZ (Group Exhibition)

Sam Ludden & Sam Melser, *Traces* Exhibition, River East Gallery

Selected for Wairarapa Review Art Award

#### **2006**

Sam Ludden, *Water Not Included*, Aratoi Museum of History and Culture,

Selected for Wairarapa Review Art Award

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### **EDUCATION**

#### **Pottery Residency**

Pottery Terraterre, 1999-2000

Biot, France

#### **Diploma of Ceramics Design and Production**

Wanganui Regional Community Polytech 1995-1998

Wanganui

#### **Bursary Art, Maori and Workshop Technology**

Makoura College, 1990-1994

Masterton

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## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

### **Self-Employed – Dirty Fingers Pottery**

*Masterton, 2001 – current*

### **Part-Time Art & Outdoor Recreation Tutor (15 hrs/week) – Makoura College**

*Masterton, 2006-2007*

### **Part-Time Outdoor Instructor/Guide – Wairarapa Outdoor Pursuits (WOP)**

*Masterton, Summer Seasons 05/06 06/07 07/08*

### **Sea Kayak Guide/Milford Track Guide – Roscoes Kayaks, Milford Sound**

*Milford Sound, 2006*

### **Tutor of Ceramics & Bone Carving – Hiona Intermediate/King St Artworks**

*Masterton, Terms 2/3 2001*

### **Pottery & Gallery Curator – Gallery “Pottie Potta”**

*Biot, France Oct-Dec 2000*

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## **OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE**

**President** - Main Artery Wairarapa Arts Trail, founding member 2007 - current

**Coaching and Development** - Wairarapa Canoe Club 1991-2007

**Various Arts/Pottery Workshops** - with Schools & Community Groups 2001-Current

**Extensive Travel** - throughout Europe 1999-2001

**Represented NZ in Canoe Polo** – Junior/Under 21 tours of Australia/NZ 1993-1995

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## **LANGUAGES**

**French** – lived in France for 1 ½ years, some knowledge

**Maori** – Fluent speaker when younger, now relearning

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## **REFEREES**

Marcus Burrows, Director of Aratoi Museum of Art & History, Masterton

Tim Walker, Director of The New Dowse Public Gallery, Lower Hutt, Wellington