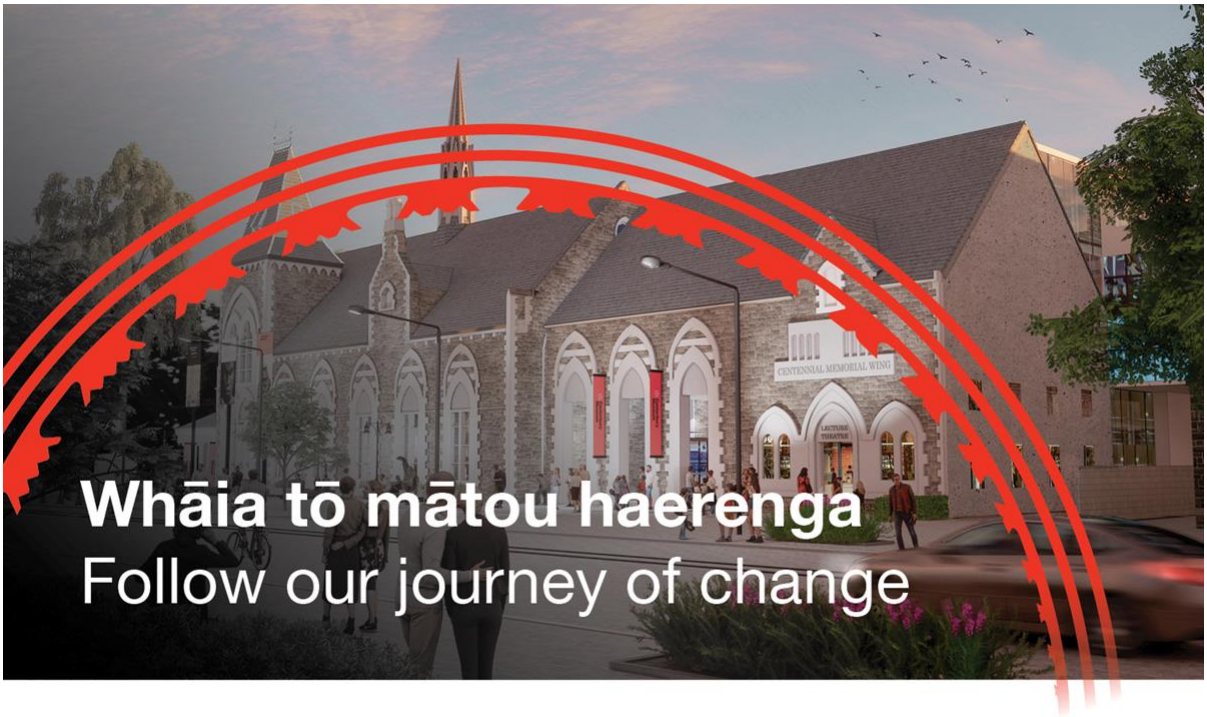
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Canterbury Museum





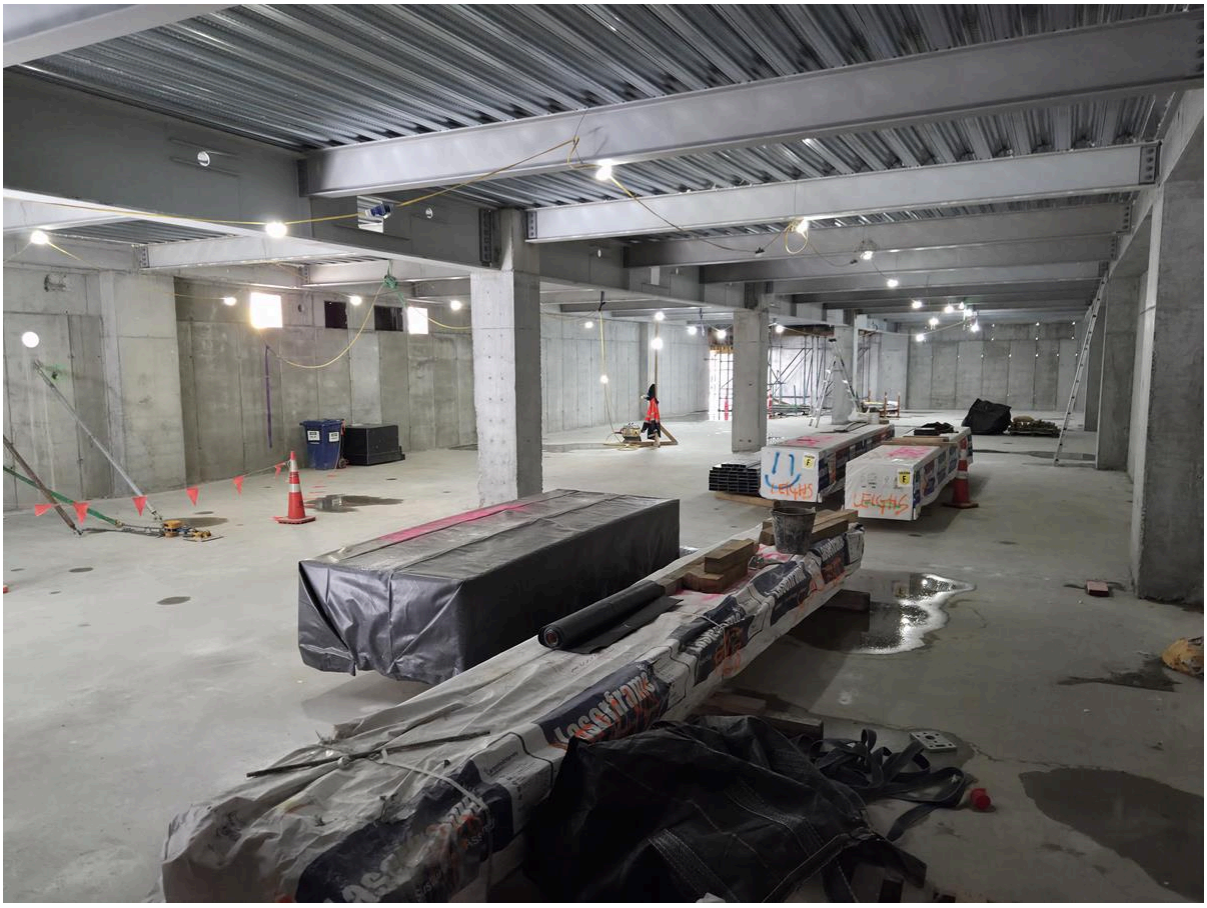
Kia ora koutou

The redevelopment of Canterbury Museum is hitting milestones every week.

The latest sign of progress is the laying of the first area of concrete floor on top of the new basement. This means the first new basement collection storage vault is now fully enclosed. It’s exciting to see the spaces take shape and get a real sense

of the size of the basement. It is considerably larger than any storage space in the old Museum.

Construction workers have also begun laying the concrete outer basement floor beneath the Robert McDougall Gallery. The heritage building is temporarily supported by steel beams and over 300 micropiles while the new basement is constructed. Watch the video above for a tour of the redevelopment site.



The first new basement collection area is now fully enclosed.

Structural steel is already arriving on site. It won't be long until we see the new building emerge above ground and become part of the new city. **You can follow progress on the redevelopment webcam.**

There's exciting news for the *Canterbury Museum Pop-Up*, with the new exhibition *Wildlife Photographer of the Year* opening express from London on 7 November and the Canterbury Potters Association show opening on 11 November.

Read on to learn more about these new exhibitions and the chance to win a copy of the fascinating new book *South Island Maori Rock Art*.

Ngā mihi nui
Anthony Wright
Tumuaki Matua | Director



Express from London

Wildlife Photographer of the Year

The latest *Wildlife Photographer of the Year* exhibition opens at the *Canterbury Museum Pop-Up* on 7 November, just weeks after it opened at the Natural History Museum in London.

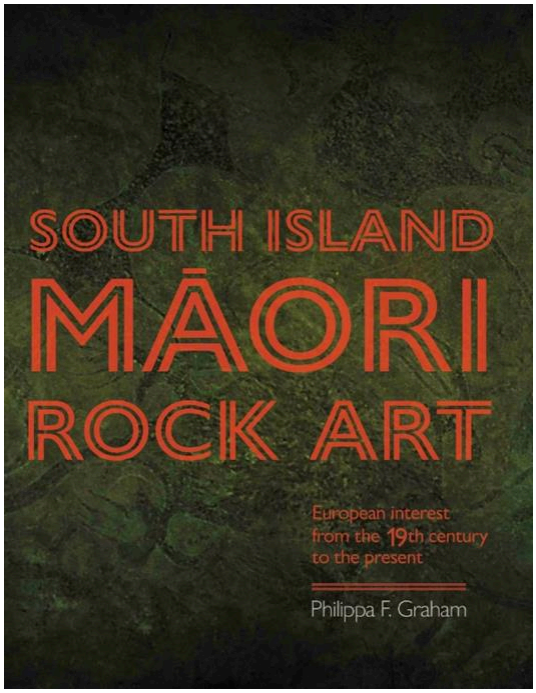
Direct from London, this fresh batch of 100 spectacular animal images features a polar bear peering into an ice hole in search of a seal snack, a chameleon enduring a Namib Desert sandstorm and a black bear cooling off in a California backyard swimming pool.

The world-renowned competition and exhibition, now in its sixty-second year, is the most prestigious nature photography event of its kind. This year, a panel of experts selected 100 photographs from a record-breaking 65,403 entries from 121 countries worldwide.

Norwegian photographer Audun Rikardsen captured this photograph of a polar bear. He noticed bear tracks near a hole in the Arctic sea ice north of Svalbard. Seals use the holes to surface for air, but it can be risky when hungry polar bears are around. Audun set up an underwater camera with a motion sensor in the hole and waited. Eight hours later, a bear triggered the camera, producing this striking photograph, titled Icy Window.

Image: *Icy Window* by Audun Rikardsen. Natural History Museum, London.

Read more ···→



Prize draw

Win a copy of *South Island Māori Rock Art*

To celebrate the publication of Philippa F Graham's new book *South Island Māori Rock Art*, we are giving away a copy of this fascinating history.

The new book traces European interest in rock art from the nineteenth century to the present day. The draw is open until midnight on Monday 9 November.

Enter the draw ···→



From Rome to home

The Museum's first ever exhibition

Artworks covered nearly every available wall space when the first exhibition opened at Canterbury Museum on 8 February 1870.

As many as 3,000 artworks crowded the walls of what is now known as the Mountfort Gallery. A series of photographs in the Museum collection offer a tantalising glimpse of the scene. The upper level of the Mountfort Gallery is literally packed to the rafters with art. Alongside the paintings were many examples of Greco-Roman and neo-classical art, including casts of famed sculptures depicting Greek heroes and Roman gods in dramatic poses.

This cavalcade of art proved incredibly popular. Over the two-month run, 7,000 people flocked to the exhibition. Evening viewings were particularly popular.

But hidden among the artworks was a forgery.

Read more ···→



Last chance to see

Tails from the Coasts

You have just a few days left to catch *Tails From The Coasts: Nature Stories of Singapore.*

The exhibition, featuring a priceless collection of historic artworks, closes at the *Canterbury Museum Pop-Up* on 1 November.

The 200-year-old artworks, on loan from the National Museum of Singapore, are also brought to life through animation in a special immersive digital experience.

Read more ···→



Brilliant baskets

Crafty women's tussock work

Sarah Cryer rode a horse called Starlight, hunted pigs with “great zest” and was a passionate advocate for making beautiful and useful objects from tussock grass.

She was one of many women in nineteenth century New Zealand who adapted to their new home and drew on local resources to continue their craft. Canterbury Museum cares for four work baskets made from native tussock by European settlers that reveal how they adapted to their new environment, offer a glimpse into the often-hidden world of women’s craft and show the maker’s skills.

New research has also revealed the four baskets are made from the culms (flowering stems) of *Poa cita* (wī, pātītī or silver tussock), a species endemic to New Zealand. Kerry Ford, botanist at the Allan Herbarium at Lincoln, identified the material by studying the Museum baskets under a microscope and comparing the material to preserved samples.

Read more ···→

Pots galore

Canterbury Potters Association show

Buy a beautiful piece of pottery to take home.

New ceramic works by members of the Canterbury Potters Association (CPA)



will be on display and for sale in the Ō Papa Gallery at the Centre of Contemporary Art Toi Moroki, 66 Gloucester Street from 11 November.

The 53rd CPA exhibition will feature new works by Kiwi artists, including guest exhibitor Kate Fitzharris.

Read more ···→

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Canterbury Museum

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