



Rural Women of Southland, ceramic, 2014



"There is a crack  
in everything....  
that's how the  
light gets in"  
Leonard Cohen

# SAM MITCHELL

WILLIAM HODGES FELLOW 2014  
19 JULY - 31 AUGUST 2014



*"There is a crack in everything...that's how the light gets in."*

Superheroes, monsters, demons and damsels in distress, soldiers, saints and unicorns – daring rescues, passionate kisses, bottom basement bargains and oral sex. From the cool blue skin of smiling or pensive innocents, graphic tales of corrupted virtue reveal the age-old struggle between good and evil.

Sam Mitchell's portraits get under the skin and expose the scares beneath, the marks or tattoos that can be laid-bare by her gaze as defining and permanent. It is through these cracks in exterior appearance that Mitchell observes and documents the often accidental illumination of dark forgotten corners "I'm an alligator, I'm a mama-papa coming for you" she says. With her penetrating gaze firmly fixed on Southland, glossy, glazed ceramic platters emerge bearing the confronting glares of topless women encircling a black swan. A muscular black singlet clad man looks us in the eye as he slits the neck of a sheep and floating portraits of illustrious leaders of the Invercargill Club float ominously in the fore of its grand façade alongside a portrait of a featureless woman.

"I'm the space invader, I'll be a rock 'n' rollin' bitch for you", Mitchell says. "Don't fake it baby, lay the real thing on me."

Quotes from David Bowie's "Moonage Daydream"

Kathryn Mitchell.



*Foundation, ceramic, 2014*



Everything...that's how the light gets in" Leonard Cohen



Foundation, ceramic, 2014

## CV

### Education

1994 – 97 BFA Elam School of Fine Arts, University of Auckland

### Selected Exhibitions

2014 *Sourcery: Sam Mitchell and Roger Mortimer*, Bartley & Co, Wellington  
*First is last, Last is first*, Corbans Estate Art Centre, Auckland

2013 *Hips*, Bartley & Co, Wellington  
*Group show*, Melanie Roger Gallery, Auckland

2012 *Members only*, Melanie Roger Gallery, Auckland  
*Group show*, Melanie Roger Gallery, Auckland

2011 *Glean*, Melanie Roger Gallery, Auckland  
*New Romantics*, University of Waikato, Hamilton, Curated by Karl Chitham  
*ISCP Residency show*, Brooklyn, New York, USA  
*Point B Artist in residency show*, Williamsburg, Brooklyn, NYC, USA  
*Auratica Fantastica*, Window Gallery, University of Auckland  
Curated by Graham Fletcher, Andrea Low  
*About Face*, Curated by Rhoda Fowler, Papakura Art Gallery

2010 *Group Show*, Anna Bibby Gallery, Auckland

### Residencies

2011 International Studio and Curatorial programme  
New York, USA  
PointB Residency programme  
Williamsburg, Brooklyn, New York,

2010 The Lock – up Cultural Centre  
John Payner Gallery  
Newcastle, Australia

### Awards

2010 20th Paramount Winner of the James Wallace Art Award.  
Works are held in James Wallace Art Collection.

Private collections in New Zealand, New York City, Australia, Cairo, London  
Sam Mitchell is represented by Melanie Roger Gallery, Auckland



