

The Franklin Arts Festival turns 21 this year (2010). It has been decided to celebrate this milestone and to further enhance the annual art festival week with a large scale glamorous event of high octane fabulousness.

Nothing is more fantastic and mesmerising than a clever hybrid of high fashion and art. Therefore we are hosting an Art Couture Competition where finalists get selected for a fashion event at Franklin: The Centre.

The theme will not be 'wearable art' like we know it, where costumes and other paraphernalia are worn. The emphasis will be on avant-garde garments of a couture nature made from non traditional materials.i.e. not necessarily (but also not excluding) cloth and fabric.

To show you how to make a Art Couture Garment, Steven Ball, who has done several high profile Art Couture shows including "paper skin" recently held at Te Papa is doing two demonstrations at Franklin: The Centre on the 7th and on the 14th of August. Anyone can attend this dress construction demonstration and either just enjoy it for the performance of it or get some major inspiration and tips on how to create your own garment. You can then enter it into the competition- the deadline to enter is 14th of August for the competition, hand in your garment at Artefact at Franklin: The Centre on the 21st of August. Entry fee is \$5.00 for each garment.

We will also be looking for some models to wear the garments on the big fashion night- if you enter a garment you can put your own model forward, as sometimes the artists makes such items on their very own muse, but otherwise we will still need a few extras. If you are a person who can wear something outrageous with confidence we would like to hear from you.

Then on the 27th of August we will have a big fashion show with the works of some high profile New Zealand Artists, Steven Ball and a new series of avant-garde garments by well known local Wearable arts artist Yanny Split. Yanny Split is a contributor for this show and also the judge. Another high profile guest judge has just signed up too: Lisa Reihana!

The host of this evening will be the ultra outrageous and super fabulous Drag Artiste Miss Elibra Fleur from Auckland! Expect some fantastic twists and turns. Tickets for this event will be for sale on behalf of the Franklin Arts Festival at Artefact, Franklin: The Centre and will be \$20 per person, because the event is in the foyer space – there will be limited tickets. Tickets on sale from 16th of August 2010.

During the month of August we will have some of the garments that recently featured in Te Papa's 'paper skin' exhibition and previous Fashion Shows on display in The New Zealand Steel Gallery so that people can come and view them up close for inspection and to get some inspiration as well. We will also have a 'how to' video that entrants can download to see the demonstrations if they can't come to one of the performances.