

## **Chris Saines: Biographical notes**

Chris has been director of the Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki since 1996 and has led the Gallery through a period of unprecedented growth and change, including the planning, development and fundraising for a \$121 million building restoration and expansion project that opened to the public in 2011. Chris has over 30 years experience working in major public galleries in Australia and New Zealand. Before coming to Auckland, he was curator at the McClelland Gallery, a State Regional Gallery in Victoria, then an educator and later senior manager of curatorial programmes at the Queensland Art Gallery. Among his key exhibition and collection programme initiatives, Chris developed the Walters Prize and the Auckland Triennial and, in 2009, secured the largest ever art gift to an Australasian public gallery – 15 Modern masterworks promised to Auckland by New York based collectors Julian and Josie Robertson. As the Gallery moves into its new 'post-development' phase, Chris' role as director has recently been given an enhanced and broader range of leadership responsibilities. These include a focus on major exhibition development and the building of a collection and major exhibitions endowment fund through the Auckland Art Gallery Foundation.