

## ENJOY PUBLIC ART GALLERY

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### **BEDWYR WILLIAMS**

LE 'WELSH' MAN'S 24HR

One Day Sculpture

1 used car – 24 paintings – 24 hours

**Thursday 12 February 2009, 00:00-24.00**

Around Wellington, beginning and ending at the carpark next to Enjoy, Swan Lane, off Cuba St, Wellington



Feeling that every one of the 24 hours should count, Bedwyr Williams' contribution to the *One Day Sculpture* series brings us the intrepid union of motor-sports and art. Williams' work will take the form of an art gumball rally around Wellington, a rally where he is the only contestant. Requiring exceptional endurance, this event will see him attempting to complete 24 paintings in 24 hours travelling from location to location in a used station wagon.

The subjects of Williams' paintings will vary – from people and landscapes, to pets and buildings. Working spontaneously, Williams will lay himself bare to the rattle and unpredictability of everyday life on Wellington's streets and byways, creating a build up of both anticipation and art. Growing over the day, *Le 'Welsh' Man's 24hour* will culminate in a grand unveiling of 24 paintings – the physical and visual interpretations of his subjects.

When producing his *One Day Sculpture* project, Williams will draw on the quirky banalities of his own autobiographic existence – an extraordinarily tall Welsh man and artist arriving in New Zealand for the first time. He'll spend his research time trawling the streets of Wellington to map out a one-man marathon, and following that will attempt an epic and mobile reproduction of his encounters and experiences of life

in Wellington. The results of his intense art rally will accumulate by the hour, stored in a rack on the roof of the car to speed up the drying process.

The curator of *Le 'Welsh' Man's 24hour* Siv B. Fjærestad notes: "There is a sense of something aspiring to beauty that is produced by an object moving at speed. This is found in the pulsating exchange of cars, bikes, or running bodies in a race as they alternate rankings and speeds." Fjærestad suggests that this can be seen as a parable for humankind's eternal quest for achievement and success. "Williams brings this quest to the local dust and grit of greater Wellington. His observations of unexceptional, everyday incidents and our cherished landmarks will call attention to social idiosyncrasies specific to New Zealand, and with his subtle self-deprecation he has the tools to question parochialism, cultural snobbery and the quirks of how we see ourselves."

With no particular set of rules for this activity – is it art or sport, or both – the tension will build and the rules will be formed as a result of the journey. Williams' tackling of the simultaneous predicability and random chance of daily events will surely produce a sense of ridiculous urgency and some form of radical tourism.

Finally, Fjærestad notes "the project can be viewed equally as a race against the limitations of art itself, or being an artist today and the pressure of applying an artistic/anthropological observation to place and locality."

You have to be there. This one cannot be missed!

Keep an eye on Bedwyr Williams' daily blog at [www.bedwyrwilliams.com](http://www.bedwyrwilliams.com) or see [www.enjoy.org.nz](http://www.enjoy.org.nz) or [www.onedaysculpture.org.nz](http://www.onedaysculpture.org.nz) for updated info about his movements, plans and encounters in Wellington.

Bedwyr Williams' One Day Sculpture *Le 'Welsh' Man's 24 hour* is commissioned by Enjoy Public Art Gallery. Curated by Siv B. Fjærestad.

### **About Bedwyr Williams**

Employing both engaged criticality and a sense of quick-witted surrealistic humour, Williams explores contemporary issues of identity, location and culture, and what it means to be an artist under such conditions. He often draws upon the quirky banalities of his own autobiographical existence to develop his sculptures and performances, merging art and life with a comedic twist. Williams' constructed environments and cultural commentary present extraordinary encounters for diverse audiences, encouraging them to think of their local surroundings in new ways.

### **Acknowledgements**

Image credit (above): El Cheapo cars, Petone, 2009. Photo: Christina Oldfield

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Enjoy generates and facilitates contemporary art projects to promote the discourse of contemporary art practice in all its forms. We gratefully acknowledge support from Creative New Zealand, Big Image Print and our valuable volunteers. Thanks!

One Day Sculpture is a New Zealand-wide series of temporary public artworks. A Massey University College of Creative Arts, School of Fine Arts, Litmus Research Initiative.

### **Media Contacts**

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