

# Artist in Residence 2007

## James Cousins



New Zealand artist James Cousins didn't waste time making the St Cuthbert's College Art Studio his own. The amount of new work around the room and the way his brushes were laid out made it seem as if he had been there for longer than just a few weeks.

"I treat this space as my studio, so I'm here nine to five, four days a week and teaching at AUT once a week. 90% of my time here was going to be studio and 10% with the students," said Cousins.

James was the second artist in the College's Artist in Residence scheme. The Artist in Residence has a studio, where students can observe the processes and procedures used by artists in creating works. Students have the opportunity to work with and be mentored by working professionals.

Our first artist, Deborah Smith, continued her existing projects while in residence, re-searching, editing and executing her photographic images. Like Cousins, Smith, who used to teach in the College, also contributed to the senior programme through group critiques, individual tutorials and by giving students the opportunity to observe her process.

"It's great to have had the chance to do this here. The school's resources are amazing, the staff are really supportive. It's a very nice space to use and the time here has been really useful for me," James said.

If you have been to St Cuthbert's College you have probably already seen it the large white grid painting in the atrium, WATERFALL, which was painted by Cousins.

The grid style paintings are what he is most well known for and what he was creating during his time at St Cuthbert's college.

"The grid paintings are all about the suggestion of an image being inherently fictional and these paintings are expressing that as you read and then lose the image to the grid," says Cousins.

Born in Christchurch, Cousins now lives in Ponsonby with his wife Shelley and baby boy Tama and teaches part-time at School of Art and Design at the Auckland University of Technology.

Late in Term 3 James and Deborah presented their work at the "An evening with the artists" exhibition, held in the St Cuthbert's College Frances Compton Senior Library.

