



# Kiwi artist in Venice

By Michelle Lotter

It was a blast from the past when painter Judy Millar spoke to students about her involvement in the international Venice Biennale.

Along with sculptor Francis Upritchard, Ms Millar revisited Westlake Girls High School, the place where she first decided to pursue art as a career.

Ms Millar was reunited with her old art teacher Sue McBride whose year 13 painting and sculpture class learnt about the projects Ms Millar and Ms Upritchard are undertaking in Venice.

Known for evocative, contemporary trends and avante garde works, the ex-

hibition gives artists the chance to feature works in unique settings.

Ms Millar's large-scale painting installations will feature at the Biennale.

The ideas for her work titled Giraffe-Bottle-Gun developed as she researched Venetian architecture, visualising bold paintings hanging off buildings and protruding through windows.

"Venice is kind of like Disneyland so I started thinking about painting Disneyland.

"Museums across the world look the same, it's exciting to exhibit in a place that's different."

Ms Upritchard said it would be interesting to see

what her art looks like inside her venue at the Palazzo Mangili-Valmarana which has brightly coloured curtains and other oddities.

She said she wanted to break away from Venice's "very conservative" sculptures by creating caricatures.

"The great thing about art is you can have a silly idea and run with it."

An online auction of both artists' work is being held on April 2 at [www.artandobject.co.nz](http://www.artandobject.co.nz).

The Venice Biennale runs from June to November.

For information about the New Zealand representation visit the website [www.nzatvenice.com](http://www.nzatvenice.com).



**On exhibition:** Artist Judy Millar is representing New Zealand at the Venice Biennale Thursday, 05 March 2009, p. 19