

ART COLLECTOR

**ANNE ZAHALKA
PLAYING THE GAME**

ART UNDER \$5000

**JANET LAURENCE
COLLECTOR'S DOSSIER**

**NEW ZEALAND'S
TALENT EXPLOSION**

MIWA YANAGI





Installation artist **Ryan L Foote** relishes working on a big scale, and even more astonishingly, working solo – confident in handling the technical, managerial and entrepreneurial skills as well as the physical labour. Much of his work, like his artistic influences, is associated with the artifice and décor of fashion industry events, with the sort of high concept runway spectacles of Viktor & Rolf, for instance. In fact, this picture is one of his more spectacular exhibition pieces: a 30-metre gold catwalk, crashed to the floor from a second storey galleria at 271 Collins street last year. But Foote's interest in fashion and design also insists on attention to meticulous, handcrafted, eye-straining detail with lavish materials and intricate ornamentation.

His ambition for the *Gesamtkunstwerk* – the totally orchestrated aesthetic experience – is being given free rein in his work for the Gertrude Contemporary Art Spaces's annual patrons dinner, to be held in its Fitzroy gallery on 25 July 2009. Foote is not only designing the massive table to seat almost 100, but also – on a theme of black and white – the chairs, the cutlery, and crockery settings, is styling the waiting staff (their choreography as well as their hair and clothes) and, with the help of a chef exploring in the current avant-garde of cuisine, "molecular gastronomy", is even designing the drinks and the food!

Edward Colless

Ryan L Foote, *Exquisite boundaries*, 2008. Installation view at 271 Collins St, Melbourne. COURTESY: THE ARTIST