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## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **For Immediate Release**

### **Antarctica New Zealand Announces Invited Artists**

New Zealand artists, author Lloyd Jones and photographer Boyd Webb, are the two recipients of the 2008/09 Antarctica New Zealand Invited Artists residency programme.

Wellington-based Jones and London-based Boyd Webb will travel to Scott Base, Antarctica in December of this year to take part in the programme, which targets prominent New Zealand artists.

Antarctica New Zealand CEO Lou Sanson said that the aim of the programme is to increase New Zealanders' understanding of Antarctica's value and its international importance through the work of our top artists. "This programme gives New Zealand artists a rare opportunity to artistically explore the concept of Antarctica and the world-leading science programme we have down there." Sanson said. "We hope that the experience of living on the ice will open new doors for our artists and inspire them to expand their creative work. It also allows New Zealanders to discover the amazing Antarctic environment through the eyes of our artists. It's the mixing of art, science and the power of the Antarctic landscape that make this residency truly unique."

Lloyd Jones' latest novel, *Mister Pip*, has been published in 33 countries worldwide and is the winner of the 2007 Commonwealth Writers' Prize. The novel was also shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize 2007, and is winner of the Montana Medal for Fiction 2007 and the Kiriyaama Prize for Fiction 2008. "The invited artists programme is a fantastic opportunity to go where very few people get to go." said Jones, "I feel privileged, and I feel very curious about Antarctica. I don't know how I will respond to it nor do I have the usual preconceptions that occur when I set out to visit a place. So in that sense Antarctica is a bit unusual for me." Exposure to the Antarctic and the science that takes place will provide a unique challenge to Lloyd Jones' work which has reached the forefront of New Zealand's literary achievements.

Born in Christchurch, New Zealand in 1947, Boyd Webb travelled to London to study at the Royal College of Art in 1972. He has exhibited widely in New Zealand, Europe and America since 1976. Webb currently lives in England and was short listed for the Turner Prize in 1990. His works are included in many internationally recognised collections such as the Tate Gallery in London, Musée National d'Art Moderne in Paris, The National Gallery of Australia and the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles.

**T:** +64 3 358 0200

**F:** +64 3 358 0211

International Antarctic Centre  
Administration Building  
38 Orchard Road  
Private Bag 4745  
Christchurch  
New Zealand  
[www.antarcticanz.govt.nz](http://www.antarcticanz.govt.nz)



The trip to the ice in December will be a long held dream for Boyd Webb. “Almost in the same order as a trip to the moon.” Webb said. “Ice, weather, scientists and penguins – a heady mix of great portent set in the last great wilderness – what could be more inspiring?”

Through their creative explorations, Boyd Webb and Lloyd Jones will continue the legacy of New Zealand Artists on the ice that goes back over 50 years of New Zealand’s involvement with Antarctica.

***Ends***

**For more information please contact:**

Matt Vance

Communications Advisor

Ph: +64 3 358 0213 (Direct)

Cell: +64 21 997 993

Email: [m.vance@antarcticanz.govt.nz](mailto:m.vance@antarcticanz.govt.nz)

**T:** +64 3 358 0200

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