

# PRESS RELEASE

[Wednesday 21 May]

## **WINDOW presents *AtomSpheres* - a launch/celebration by Andrew de Freitas**

Ships have been instrumental in humanity exploring and understanding the Earth and our position in it. Since Ancient times, across cultures, there have been celebrations surrounding the launch and naming of a ship. Japanese ship names are often attached to the word "Maru" (丸, meaning "circle"). There are several theories associated with this practice; among them that the term, used in divination, represents perfection or completeness, or the ship as a small world of its own. In Japan this convention is still used for private and commercial ships, but by World War II a complete system was put in place for the naming the different categories of ships: Heavy destroyers named after weather, Torpedo boats after birds, Destroyers after water and plants.

Similarly, through science, we explore and comprehend the world through categories and systems; often these are referred to as 'spheres of knowledge'. Here the sphere is essentially a model for understanding a system of knowledge- without a model here it would be nearly impossible to understand anything whatsoever. Systems can operate both separately or integrated as systems within systems. An atom, a cell, an organism, an ecosystem, our atmosphere, Earth, our galaxy, are all integrated systems, yet the ways in which we systematize our understanding of these, our knowledge, is ultimately not. Different 'spheres' of knowledge are necessary models for understanding the world, such as those organised into departments in a university; some that overlap and others that contradict. Concerning the current issue of climate change, problems surface as different valid scientific models operate in this way, each valid but only as distinct from the other. Similar problems occur in the way scientific findings are interpreted by the media or responded to in global politics.

With *AtomSpheres*, Andrew de Freitas has produced a video installation for WINDOW's onsite space, celebrating the launch the digitally animated model. The opening event will incorporate a seminar by Chris de Freitas, from the School of Geology, Geography and Environmental Science. The presentation, *Climate Change, what do we know?; Dealing with climate feedbacks in predicting human-caused climate change*, will address the above statements, and other aspects of possible human-caused global climate change.

**Opening at 5:30pm, Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May.**

**Seminar by Chris de Freitas Old Choral Hall 1 (across the courtyard from WINDOW), 6pm. All are welcome.**

The exhibition runs from 26<sup>th</sup> May to 1<sup>st</sup> June. WINDOW and the artist thank Castles Marquee and Party Hire for their support.

Andrew de Freitas lives and works in Auckland, and is currently completing post-graduate study at the Elam School of Fine Arts.

Chris de Freitas is an associate professor in the School of Geography, Geology and Environmental Science at the University of Auckland. He has three times been the recipient of the New Zealand Association of Scientists, Science Communicator Award.

WINDOW is a contemporary art project space with an On Site / Online premise, running parallel programs of experimental media and virtual art. WINDOW On Site is located in the foyer of the University of Auckland's General Library. For more information, please contact WINDOW: [window@auckland.ac.nz](mailto>window@auckland.ac.nz) or 3737599, ext 88279.