

media release

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Innovative kinetic sculpture unveiled at Wellington's newest student residence

Residents and visitors at Victoria University's newest student residence, Te Puni Village, have welcomed an innovative wind-driven kinetic sculpture at the entrance of the Village.

Organism, by New Zealand artist, Phil Price, was unveiled earlier this year at Te Puni Village's opening, which was attended by the Prime Minister, the Hon John Key.

According to artist Phil Price, the general activity of life at Te Puni means that students will need to form a relationship with the sculpture.

"I hope that *Organism* will enrich the residents' lives," he says.

The sculpture was acquired with donations from private investment company, Transfield Holdings, and student accommodation specialists, Campus Living Villages, and matched with private funds donated to the Victoria University Foundation. Campus Living Villages, a subsidiary of Transfield Holdings, operates Te Puni Village on behalf of Victoria University.

Like all of Price's kinetic sculptures, *Organism* makes innovative use of contemporary materials and processes. With a structural and mechanical design that exceeds New Zealand standards for wind loading, the piece is sculpted out of heat cured epoxy glass and carbon fibre matrixes. In motion, *Organism* reflects the youthful dynamism of the students at Te Puni Village and the wider University community.

Director of Victoria University's Adam Art Gallery, Christina Barton, says: "On behalf of the Victoria University Art Collection I am very grateful to Transfield and Campus Living Villages for its generous donation that has enabled us to add such a major work to our collection".

Price was approached by Transfield Holdings' Art Curator, Stephen Bradley, to create the sculpture.

"Transfield...had no hesitation in recommending Phil for this commission, a confidence realised with the successful design and installation of *Organism*," says Bradley.

Managing Director of Campus Living Villages NZ, Tom Gregg, was also pleased with the design.

"We're thrilled with the opportunity to have our partnership with Victoria University represented in such a beautiful manner, and with a piece by such a renowned artist," he says.

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