

Riwaka sculptor invited to New York show

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A Riwaka-based metal sculptor is heading to New York after being discovered online by a contemporary gallery.

John Wolter has been working out of Wood Pigeon Art Studio in Kaiteriteri Rd for 15 years. He creates expressive sculptures using hammers, blow torches, grinders, and metal cutters.

"I don't like playing with wax. It's a long process. You have got to be set up with a foundry," he said.

Wolter was invited to exhibit in the Agora Gallery in New York's Interpretive Realms show, alongside 16 other international artists.

"They contacted me via email, from my website, and said they wanted me to put in a portfolio. It's a buzz," he said. The gallery would also represent him for 18 months, which was an "opportunity I can't let go by".

"This is a highly commercial gallery. It has a client base of 40,000 people," he said.

Wolter studied visual arts at the Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology, majoring in furniture design. He did work experience at the Kaiteriteri Rd studio, "and ended up buying the place".

Wolter and his partner are flying to the US next week, for the exhibition opening on April 25.

"We just got some Broadway tickets for Spiderman. I didn't want to see Mamma Mia," he said.

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