Media Release

New murals on display in The Frame

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Large-scale new artworks in central Christchurch's Frame are designed to build a distinctive character for those areas as development plans come to fruition.

The two murals, on the exterior of buildings in both the East and South Frames, form part of the Spectrum Street Art Festival that begins tomorrow.

A mural by New Zealand artist Elliot Francis Stewart, Gardening, can be seen facing onto Mollett Street in the South Frame, located between Tuam and St Asaph Streets. Commissioned by the Christchurch Central Development Unit (CCDU), the work shows a young girl watering flowers.

"It's a theme that fits well with the South Frame, where art and native plantings will feature along with a new network of public lanes and courtyards," says CCDU Director Baden Ewart.

"Together with buildings with a mix of uses, it's going to be a vibrant place to be."

An image of a winged woman in flight will be finished in the East Frame over the weekend, on the Cashel Chambers building between Manchester and Madras Streets.

Cycle Flight (Within and Without), by Australian artist Vexta is being funded by Fletcher Living, the preferred development partner for the Crown on the East Frame inner city neighbourhood that will combine townhouses and apartments with cafes, restaurants and outdoor entertainment areas.

"Both the East and South Frames will incorporate public spaces that encourage community activity, with scope for weekend festivals and markets," Mr Ewart says.

"Exciting public artworks are an important ingredient for the regeneration of these areas, and both these murals are fantastic additions to the Frame."

The Spectrum Street Art Festival is presented by Oi You! and the Christchurch YMCA, and is the Southern Hemisphere's largest annual street art festival. The festival is running from 12 December 2015 to 17 April 2016 and will feature seven exhibition spaces, 10 big city centre walls, and 15 of the world's best street artists. The main festival hub is at the YMCA on Hereford Street with free admission seven days a week.