



Art gallery in a truck

By ALEXIA JOHNSTON

The Black Collection isn't what it seems.

It's an unfolding ERF truck that spends more time parked up as a mobile art gallery than it does travelling New Zealand's roads.

The truck, also known as The Black Rose, is one of two

\$460,000 mobile art galleries touring the country's high schools and last week it paid a special visit to the Aigantighe Art Gallery in Timaru.

Both of the touring trucks operate as The Real Art Roadshow, a concept created by Wanaka art enthusiast Fiona Campbell, who dreamed of taking her extensive collection of New Zealand art to every secondary school in the country for free.

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Spacious: Real Art Roadshow presenter Sarah Gaskin with some of the art works on display. The art show is a mobile art gallery that tours the country in a truck.

Half the load: The Real Art Roadshow truck operator Nigel Diack with one of two trucks currently touring the country.

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Art-mobile

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Last week's visiting gallery, The Black Collection, has a custom-built trailer that folds out to 78 square metres with the help of manual labour and hydraulics.

Truck operator Nigel Diack describes the truck as a small house, which he spends more time in than his own home in Wellington.

He said driving the truck isn't difficult but manoeuvring it around obstacles in preparation for display isn't always as straightforward.

"With this job we've got to fit these rather large trailers into schools and public gardens where access may not have been built for particularly larger vehicles.

"There's a lot of skill backing in around schools and corners to where you need to be, or where [organisers] want you to be.

"I probably spend 50 per cent of my driving time in reverse but you get very good at it."

Mr Diack previously worked as a truck driver hauling cars in Wellington before making a switch to The Real Art Roadshow.

The truck he brought to Timaru is one of two mobile art galleries currently touring in different parts of the country.

Mr Diack alternates between the two trucks, the other of which is silver but is known by its drivers as The Black Sheep due to its EWE



Interior features: The interior of the truck Nigel Diack tours the country in.

registration plate. The silver trailer unit, however, is about two metres longer and boasts technology that helps to level the trailer on uneven ground.

However, when Mr Diack hauls his truck off the road and the doors at the back of the trailer unit open all eyes are on the art on show.

The truck can house more than 60 art works at a time and is also designed to accommodate full class groups.

The Real Art Roadshow's visit to Timaru came to an end on Friday.

As Mr Diack prepared to transport The Black Collection to its next destination, he knew another city of obstacles would await him.

"Christchurch has a lot of trees," he said.



Wide load: The custom-made truck expands to make room for the art works on display.