

PRIORITY

EXCLUSIVELY FOR PPS CLUB MEMBERS

JAN-MAR 2013

Canberra

Diamonds

Scuba diving

Honey

Revitalising retreats





Colossal collection

Clockwise from top left:
88.5° Arc x 8 by Bernar
Venet; *Dismemberment,*
Site 1 by Anish Kapoor;
Horizons by Neil Dawson



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Gibbs Farm is not your typical New Zealand pasture. The sprawling 1,000-acre property, an hour north of Auckland, has some remnants of a traditional farm: rolling hills, pockets of trees and roaming animals. But the similarities stop there.

Alan Gibbs, an entrepreneur who has made millions through amphibious vehicles, bought the plot of land back in 1991 as a weekend retreat. Not one to follow the conventional farming route, Gibbs began amassing a vast private sculpture collection. Twenty-two years on, his 'farm' features over two dozen abstract sculptures by some of the world's top artists, commissioned specifically for permanent installation.

Gibbs' latest addition is by Maya Lin, best known for her design of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, an angled black granite wall sunk into the ground on the National Mall in Washington, DC. This new piece, titled *A Fold in the Field*, consists of five ripples in the farm's coastal flats that crest at nearly 12m. The grassy mounds are expected to be fully sculpted by March 2013, with an official opening date yet to

be announced. The 30,000-square-metre piece is the largest earthwork project that Lin has ever undertaken.

Artist Anish Kapoor, creator of Chicago's famous mirrored, bean-shaped *Cloud Gate* in Millennium Park, also dreamt big when asked to contribute a structure to Gibbs' collection. His *Dismemberment, Site 1* is a structure nearly the length of a football field wrapped in a bright red plastic membrane, seen easily on Google's satellite map. The piece reaches as high as an eight-storey building at one end. The work took six years from conception to completion – which is not uncommon at the farm, given the scale of each work on display.

Over time each piece has become intrinsic parts of the natural landscape. Woolly sheep desperate to relieve itchy skin rub against these monolithic structures just as they would a nearby tree.

Visitors to the private sculpture park, who are allowed once a month by appointment only, can roam as free as the animals around the structures, taking in each grand work against the stunning backdrop of New Zealand's coastline. www.gibbsfarm.org.nz