

Rob Barrington

Artist Bio

Whanganui was where Rob built his foundation of art. His strength in illustration and a passion towards an artistic future (whatever road that was to be) was always evident.

Working alongside illustrators, mural artists and the hand painted sign-smiths, Rob spent 35 years as a commercial artist and illustrator. Continuing a professional direction in areas of these industries, creating designs, drawings and paintings, from small magazine cartoon work to large scale murals.

Rob is now working as a full-time artist in mixed-media. Mediums include pen and ink, fine brush acrylics and oil on a range of supports, canvas, paper and board. His work is a combination of 'hand drawn' to digital animation.

His recent compositions are representations of back stories and experiences throughout his years as an artist, surfer, musician and life in Whanganui, Taranaki and Auckland. Combined with the journeys as a traveling surfer, partner and dad, turning memories into art from the city, surf, and landscapes of Aotearoa.

Rob has won a NZ Best Design Award 2019, with his native bird illustrations. Winner of the Premier Ruapehu Art Award 2023 and Winner of " Mt Ruapehu Themed Award " -Ruapehu Art Awards 2023, with the painting of 'Whanganui to Ruapehu' 2022.

Now working from his newly relocated studio in Taranaki, where the desire for beach and surfing lifestyle is often an inspiration for further creative projects.

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Journeys – Artist Statement

Location and lifestyle changes have brought these artworks together as I relocate my focus from the city to our new home in Taranaki.

Creative ideas have scribbled from my mind that needed to come out and be painted. The more I have let out, the more ideas seem to gather.

Always looking at my surroundings, thinking in compositions as I travel with my family and friends.

The constant corridors of my life are the locations that inspire my motivation into creativity - like the way birds tend to travel through their neighbourhoods. Specific tree to specific tree – different landing trees line their paths. Beauty in locations that never fades.

My art has always been based on watching the doors that open as I work. More doors open as I remove the clutter that I felt boxed me in.

Leaving the city, back to the region of land and sea, has opened those doors into rooms of new ideas and old techniques.

A sense of homecoming like the native birds that surround the areas I paint. They are like street signs that subconsciously name the location.

Like an old song.

{ Gallery 1 }