

# ARTIS

G A L L E R Y

## LIAM BARR

### Biography

Liam Barr was born in Scotland in 1966 and immigrated to New Zealand with his family in 1974. Following a period of travel overseas, Barr settled in Perth, Western Australia, where he trained and worked as a graphic designer before returning to New Zealand in 2004 to further develop his artistic career.

The exploration of folk, circumstance and the peculiarities therein is at the essence of Barr's work. He continues to define this experience expressed through meticulous attention to form and structure within the developments of his subjects.

Over the years, these narrative works have traversed all manner of situations and character types, from his early magic surrealist pieces '*Adrift – Journeys to the other me*' to the hei tiki works '*Hei Tiki-Hi Mate*' & '*Grandland*' which merged toward the colonial themes of '*Pakeha*' and '*Lore & Behold*'. Images draw reference from fiction to subjective fact, weaving stories punctuated with symbolism and iconography impacting a romantic, historical essence contextualized in a contemporary fashion.

Barr's show '*Avian*' (showing at ARTIS from 5 – 25 April 2016) will display a more contemporary image set and explores a duality of relationship with the avian species of New Zealand. Barr suggests a bi-nature effect in character trait and circumstance and endeavours to reach into a spiritual connectedness inherent within the forgotten DNA strands of mankind.

Barr's paintings have been shown in public exhibitions – '*Scape*' Whakatane Art Museum, '*Tears for Tane's Children*' at the Whangarei Art Museum and '*Mind Games*' – an *Exhibition of Surrealism in Aotearoa* at Hastings City Art Gallery.

In July 2013 Barr accepted a commission by the NZ Defence Force Veteran Services to create an artwork to commemorate the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Korean War Armistice. As a result he had the privilege of accompanying thirty NZDF veterans and personnel on a trip to South Korea. His experiences in South Korea culminated in a painting that became part of the NZDF art collection and it was presented prior to ANZAC Day April 2014.

# ARTIS

G A L L E R Y

LIAM BARR  
CV

## ACADEMIC HISTORY

1992 - 1994 Diploma (dist.) Perth Metropolitan College of Art & Design, Perth W.A.

## PRIZES, AWARDS & RESIDENCIES

- 2015 Wallace Art Awards, Finalist, Auckland, NZ
- 2012 Molly Morpeth Canaday Award, Whakatane Community Arts Council, Whakatane, NZ
- 2010 Adam Portraiture Award, NZ Portrait Gallery, Wellington, NZ
- 2008 Waikato Painting & Printmaking Award, WSA, Hamilton, NZ
- 2007 Wallace Art Awards, Finalist, Auckland. NZ
- 2005 Martin Hughes Pacific Art Award, Auckland. NZ

## MAJOR COMMISSIONS

- 2014 NZ Defence & Veteran Services
- 2014 Dame Suzie Moncrieff - (World of Wearable Arts)

## SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2014 *Lore & Behold*, Artis Gallery, Auckland
- 2011 *Pakeha*, John Leech Gallery, Auckland
- 2008 *Grand-Land*, Warwick Henderson Gallery, Auckland
- 2007 *Hei Tiki - Hi Mate*, Warwick Henderson Gallery, Auckland
- 2003 *Adrift - Journeys To The Other Me*, Fremantle Arts Centre, Fremantle, W.A.

# ARTIS

G A L L E R Y

## SELECTED GROUP SHOWS

- 2015 Xmas Exhibition, PG Gallery 192, Christchurch, NZ
- 2015 *Winter Exhibition*, ARTIS/Jonathan Grant Gallery, Auckland
- 2014 *Égrégore*, The Zenith of Pop Surrealism, Yves Laroche Galerie D'art, Montréal
- 2014 *Our People Our Land*, Artis Gallery, Auckland
- 2014 *Spring Thing*, Chambers 241, Christchurch
- 2014 *Easter Show*, Artis Gallery, Auckland
- 2013 *Auckland Art Fair*, Artis Gallery Pavillion, Auckland
- 2012 *Xmas Show*, Artis Gallery, Auckland
- 2012 *BNZ Industry Show*, curated by ARTIS Gallery, Auckland
- 2012 *Arthouse*, Ronald MacDonald House Collection initiative, NZAFA, Wellington
- 2012 *Women - NZAFA*, Wellington
- 2010 *Capturing the Colony*, Little River Gallery, Banks Peninsula
- 2010 *20 N.Z. Artists*, Williams Gallery, Petone
- 2009 *Christmas Show*, Williams Gallery, Petone
- 2009 *Christmas Show*, Brooke Gifford Gallery, Christchurch
- 2009 *Here they come, there they go, here we are*. Little River Gallery, Banks Peninsula
- 2009 *Auckland Art Fair*, Viaduct Harbour, Auckland
- 2009 *Autumn Catalogue*, Warwick Henderson Gallery, Auckland
- 2009 *Real and Unreal - An Exhibition of New Zealand Surrealists*, Warwick Henderson Gallery, Auckland
- 2008 *Summer Catalogue*, Warwick Henderson Gallery, Auckland
- 2007 *Tears for Tane's Children*, Whangarei Art Museum, Whangarei
- 2007 *Affordable Art Show*, Wellington
- 2006 *Winter Group Show*, Warwick Henderson Gallery, Auckland
- 2006 *Emerge Gallery*, Wellington
- 2006 *Affordable Art Show*, Wellington
- 2005 *Banks Peninsula Art Auction*, Lyttelton
- 2005 *Allegory Art Galley*, Christchurch
- 2004 *Le Strange Gallery*, Christchurch
- 2004 *Fishers Fine Arts*, Christchurch