



lives and works in Auckland

Peter Miller can perhaps best be classified as a contemporary still life painter. He also often works outside of that genre, incorporating narrative based and large portrait work- the latter of which has become a passion for him.

His work developed from and around an early interest in the Dutch period of Vanitas painting during his brief period at art school, a style/genre that was a focus in Dutch art of the 16th/17th century and used strong symbolism within the work to portray a sense of the transient nature of human existence.

This has continued to be a central theme within his work, although with a subtle presence which at times is only visible to the artist himself. Peter produces works that express his concerns about the state of the environment and the effect that humanity is having on it through exploitation and greed- particularly on the loss of species at an unprecedented rate. Peter does this whilst also focusing on finding the beauty within every subject he chooses to paint, whether it be the human body or a simple and plain object that carries damage from having been well used.

His still life paintings often have a zen-like quality to them. The space around the subjects within the paintings is often as important as the actual subjects, or objects, themselves in expressing the desired meditative quality within the work. Within the still life works there are often aspects of the Japanese aesthetic of Wabi Sabi, a term meaning “a way of living that focuses on finding beauty within the imperfections of life and accepting peacefully the natural cycle of growth and decay” and centred on the acceptance of transience and imperfection, an aesthetic that is sometimes described as one of beauty that is “imperfect, impermanent, and incomplete”.

Often seen in Peter’s work is the glorification or celebration, of worn or



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damaged and decaying objects. He shows the passing of time through his choice of objects, which show damage or wear, in which he finds a beauty not necessarily seen by others. Through painting, Peter transforms this wear and decay, in a sense placing these objects under a spotlight, highlighting the unseen beauty.

The narrative based paintings are a more direct carrier of the inherent message in his work. They convey his thoughts more obviously and strongly, expressing a particular idea about humanity, our mortality and transient nature and our effect on the environment that we inhabit.

His portrait painting is in a way an extension of this reflection on the transient nature of life, as he captures a moment in time. The subject is immortalized, frozen in time, the painting preventing the process of transformation that time brings to the human body, whilst also celebrating the beauty of the sitter. Peter is captivated in trying to capture the essence of a person, conveying personality, as well as, likeness.

Peter has exhibited frequently since 1997 and has been a regular finalist in the major national art awards, winning the Molly Morpeth Canaday award in 2014. His work features in private collections within New Zealand as well as internationally, including several in the Wallace Arts Trust collection based in Auckland.

#### AWARDS

2015 New Zealand Painting and Printmaking Award, Hamilton- (finalist)

2015 Molly Morpeth Canaday Award, Whakatane- (finalist)

2014 Adam Portraiture Award, Wellington (finalist)

2014 Molly Morpeth Canaday Award, Whakatane- (finalist, 1st prize)

2013 James Wallace Trust Art Award, Auckland- (finalist, touring show)

2013 Molly Morpeth Canaday Award, Whakatane- (finalist, merit award)



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- 2012 Adam Portraiture Award, Wellington- (finalist)
- 2012 New Zealand Painting and Printmaking Art Award, Hamilton- (finalist)
- 2011 New Zealand Painting and Printmaking Art Award, Hamilton- (finalist)
- 2011 Molly Morpeth Canaday Award, Whakatane- (finalist)
- 2010 Adam Portraiture Award, Wellington- (finalist, nz touring show)
- 2010 Molly Morpeth Canaday Award, Whakatane- (finalist)
- 2008 Adam Portraiture Award, Wellington- (finalist, Auckland touring show)
- 2008 New Zealand Painting and Printmaking Art Award, Hamilton- (finalist)
- 2006 Walker and Hall Art Award, Waiheke- (finalist)
- 2006 James Wallace Trust Art Award, Auckland- (finalist)
- 2004 James Wallace Trust Art Award, Auckland- (finalist)
- 2004 Waikato Painting and Printmaking Art Award, Hamilton- (finalist)
- 2003 James Wallace Trust Art Award, Auckland- (finalist, Wellington touring show)
- 2003 Norsewear Art Award, Hastings- (finalist)
- 2003 Waikato Painting and Printmaking Art Award, Hamilton- (finalist)
- 2002 James Wallace Trust Art Award, Auckland- (touring finalist) 2002: Norsewear Art Award, Hastings- (finalist)
- 1998 James Wallace Trust Art Award, Auckland- (finalist)
- 1998 Waitakere Licensing Trust Art Award, Auckland- (finalist)
- 1997 Waitakere Licensing Trust Art Award, Auckland- (2nd prize)

**SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

- 2018 Beneath the Surface- nkb Gallery, Auckland
- 2017 This Mortal Coil - nkb Gallery, Auckland



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- 2016 Presence – nkb Gallery, Auckland
- 2015 When I Grow Up – nkb Gallery, Auckland
- 2013 Railway Street Gallery, Auckland- The Mark of an Object
- 2013 The Mark of an Object- Whitespace Gallery,, Auckland
- 2009 The Age of Innocence- Whitespace Gallery, Auckland
- 2007 Time Passing, Passing Time- Mcpherson Gallery, Auckland
- 2006 Stuck In Traffic- Mcpherson Gallery Auckland
- 2004 Passing Time- Gallery 33, Wanaka
- 2002 Heavy Traffic- Mcpherson Gallery

**GROUP EXHIBITION HISTORY**

- 2015 The Vivian Gallery, Matakana, Auckland- the Figurative Show
- 2015 Gallery 33, Wanaka
- 2015 Gallery 33, Wanaka
- 2014 NKB Gallery, Auckland- Fusion
- 2014 Molly Morpeth Canaday Art Award, Whakatane (finalist, 1st prize)
- 2014 Adam Portraiture Award, Wellington (finalist)
- 2013 Gallery 33, Wanaka-
- 2013 Gallery 33, Wanaka- Flight
- 2011 Gallery 33, Wanaka- Domestic Interiors
- 2010 Gallery 33, Wanaka-Feast
- 2010 Whitespace gallery, Auckland- Seachange
- 2010 Gallery 33, Wanaka- Cars and Trucks and Things That Go
- 2010 J. J. Morgan & co., Wellington- Blankets on the Beach



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2009 Whitespace gallery, Auckland- Chorus

2009 NKB gallery, Auckland (easter group exhibition)

2008 Gallery 33, Wanaka

2007 Mcpherson gallery, Auckland