

Barry Ross Smith

lives and works in Auckland

Master of Fine Arts (Hons),
Whitecliffe College of Arts and
Design, Auckland, 2011.

Barry Ross Smith was born in Northland, New Zealand. He initially trained as a sign writer, later working as a commercial artist overseas for many years before setting up as full time artist in New Zealand. Ross Smith has a very impressive exhibition history – spanning over 20 years – and including several notable sell out shows with SOCA gallery and Black Barn. His work typically engages with the conception of myth and cultural identity, often exploring these avenues from a New Zealand male’s perspective. His work has been widely acclaimed by critics and described as “*hymns to rural New Zealand... tellingly observed and cleverly rendered*” by NZ Herald critic T.J Mcnamara. Ross Smith’s work features in many public, private and corporate collections across New Zealand, Australia, Europe, North America and Asia

“Conceptually my work explores the liminal, the threshold between boundaries of identity, relationships and living entities. My new work investigates concepts of transition and attempts to reclaim images as transcendent or magical. Totems in a post-enlightenment world. This may be read conceptually as well as literally; a transition between the past and an indeterminable new. At the same time, they recognise the inability to reclaim or understand them as such. Overall, the theme is hope and failure and hope again (with some absurdity thrown in for good measure).”

It is hard to justify something as ridiculous and as old as oil painting is. It’s long history seems so redundant in today’s society, superfluous even, with the plethora of images and imagery competing and saturating our everyday lives. To attempt to connect to others through this ancient medium, alone in a studio, seems almost anti-technological in this interconnected age. But, perhaps this space and time that the artist inhabits, pouring over a new artwork, is

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what also creates the space for a viewer to become quiet, to contemplate reflect and possibly to reconnect. I don't know.

Whatever it is, I believe that painting holds up well against all of its successors. It certainly still holds an allure for me, perhaps because I am surrounded by photographic imagery created instantaneously with our new technological toys and devices. I find painting to be the most direct, expressionistic, authentic and responsive medium for all of my personal rants and scribbles. Viscous and slick oil paint, on the end of hairy stick, smeared by the subtle movements of the hand and decisions of the eye, is a complex, idiosyncratic signature. Each mark matches the temperament of the painter on that day - exactly. You can't make a mark that isn't you and each choice is exposed directly onto the surface. It is a frustrating, difficult and exhilarating way to pass time."

EDUCATION

2011 Whitecliffe College of Arts & Design
Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.), Visual and Performing
Arts, (Hons)

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2016 'Oil & Water', NKB Gallery
Auckland

2014 'New Paintings', Aotea Gallery, Aotea Centre, Auckland

2011 'Everyday Fictions', (MFA degree show), Whitecliffe
College of Arts



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2010 'Fielddays' (retrospective solo show)
La Mezz Gallery, Hamilton

2009 'Icon?', Black Barn Gallery, Hawkes Bay

2007 'The land', Black Barn Gallery, Hawkes Bay

2007 Hunters & Consumers, SOCA Gallery, Auckland

2006 'Interior Landscapes', SOCA Gallery, Auckland

2005 'New Paintings', SOCA Gallery, Auckland

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2015 'Tangled Up In Blue', nkb Gallery, Auckland

2015 'Autumn Collection', nkb Gallery, Auckland

2014 'Art Of Courage', Longview Gallery, Christchurch

2014 'The Figure in Art', Uxbridge Creative Centre,
Auckland

2014 '10 Years', The Artist's Room, Dunedin

2014 'Fusion', nkb Gallery, Auckland

2014 Adam Portrait Award, Wellington, finalist / included in
traveling exhibition / winner of peoples' choice

2014 Molly Morpeth Canaday Art Award finalist,
Whakatane,

2014 'RDNZ', Percy Thomson Gallery, Stratford

2013 '5 years on' nkb Gallery, Auckland

2013 'MENAGERIE', The Artists Room, Dunedin



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2012 'Waiheke Heats Up!', Waiheke Art Gallery, Waiheke
Island

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Island

2012 Pure Gold, 50th Anniversary group show. Harrison's
Gallery, Tauranga

2011 'Newbies', Recent Graduates, Corbans Estate Arts
Centre, Auckland

2011 'Pure Gold', 50th Anniversary, Harrison's Gallery,
Tauranga

2011 'Best of New Zealand', Harrison's Gallery, Tauranga

2011 'Newbies', Recent Graduates, Corbans Estate Arts
Centre, Auckland

2011 Best of New Zealand, Harrison's Gallery, Tauranga

2010 'Dimensions Variable', Artspost, Hamilton

2010 'What it is to be Kiwi', Harrison's Gallery, Tauranga

2010 'Sheep - NZ icons in art', Pataka Museum of Arts and
Culture, Porirua

2010 Litmus, Saatchi & Saatchi Building, Auckland

2010 Group Show, The Artists Room Gallery, Dunedin

2010 International Fine Art Collection, FIFA World Cup,
South Africa

2009 '5th Birthday Show', The Artists Room Gallery,
Dunedin

2008 Taranaki Gate, Percy Thomson Gallery, Stratford,
Taranaki

2007 Auckland Art fair, SOCA Gallery, Auckland



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2006 'A & P Show: Art goes Country,' Christchurch Art
Gallery, Christchurch

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

National Portrait Gallery

Auckland City Council Collection Citibank Art Collection

Saatchi & Saatchi



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