



~ Showcase ~

The Way We Were:
Icons of the 60s

5th June – 10th July 2026



by artist Debra Thompson

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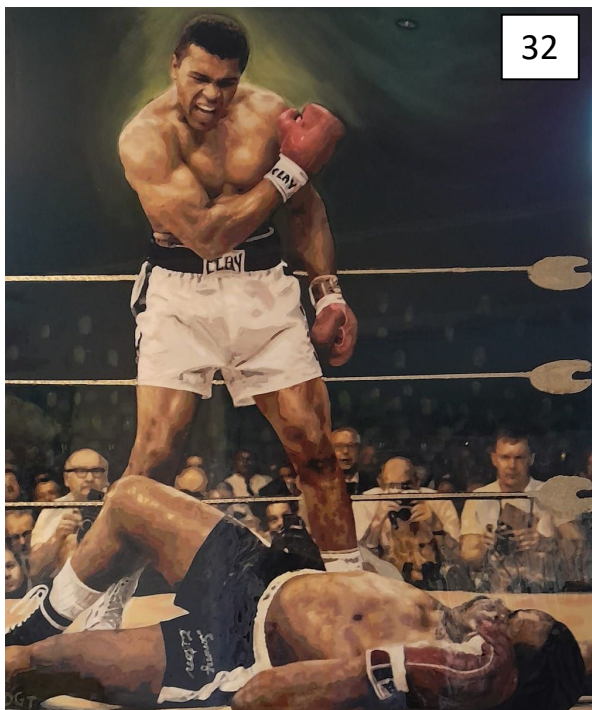
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The Way We Were: Icons of the 60s

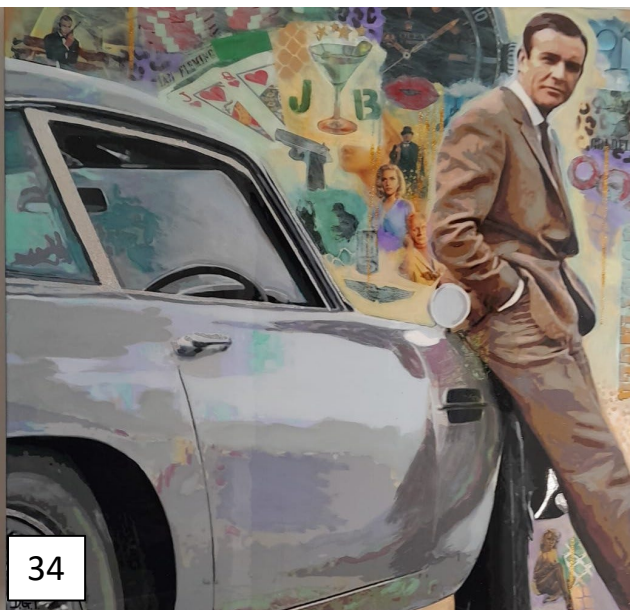
During the 1960s contemporary art was captured and presented by many artists including Andy Warhol, Peter Max, Roy Lichtenstein and Mark Rothko. In particular, their figurative renditions rejected painterly idealism and high-art hierarchies in favour of everyday, commercial subject matter. Gone were the deft draughtsman-like ancient portraits that communicated refined technique or even the implicit drama and social commentary as presented in Andrew Wyeth's *Christina's World*, painted in 1948.

Instead of rendering the human form via traditional brushwork or academic proportions, these artists utilized screen-printing, stencils, and airbrushes to make art look identical to its source media. Figurative art from this era splashed the colour, the iconography of the times and frequently, subject matter that was best suited to the silver screen.

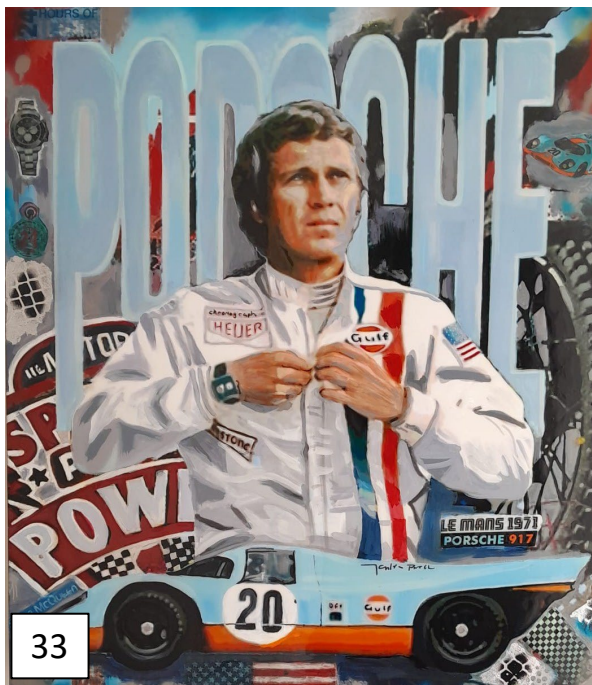
We are both proud and excited to host New Zealand artist, **Debra Thompson** who has brought these famous figures to life. In addition to celebration, these stunning contemporary compositions, superbly rendered in their own right, provide profound social and human commentary from the period of the 60s. *The Way We Were*.



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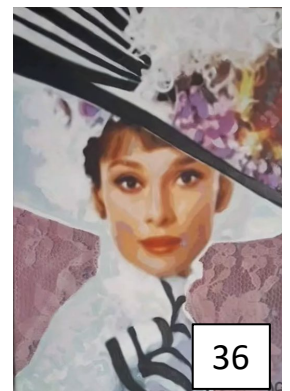
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Marilyn Price: \$1380

Debra Thompson
Acrylic and Mixed Media
on Canvas
Price: \$6300 each



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Audrey Price: \$860

~ Debra Thompson ~

Based in Hawke's Bay, Debra Thompson's artistic influences are the pop artists, Takashi Murakami, Andy Warhol and Wayne Thiebaud. Debra's contemporary art is influenced by urban and pop culture. She creates her work on canvas, using spray paint and acrylics that is then finished with paint, pens and oil sticks.

The *Icons of the 60s* collection is inspired by the critical reaction that her work has received at the *Welcome Swallow Gallery*. The genres of sport and film stars, Hollywood by proxy, both present powerful iconic individuals who have entered popular consciousness.

In this collection, portraits of *Cassius Clay*, *Sean Connery*, *Steve McQueen*, *Robert Redford* and *Paul Newman* each represent the quintessential raw masculinity that was evident in the 1960s. In parallel are two women whose prominence in the world of film equalled if not surpassed the aforementioned male archetypes. *Marilyn Monroe* and *Audrey Hepburn* respectively represent sensuality and style, often referenced as icons of the studio system and the golden age of Hollywood that began in the 1930s, lasting until the early 1960s.

Debra Thompson's art creates evocative insight into the world of celebrity that defines extraordinary performance and human endeavour that manifests in timeless global acclaim, recognition and influence.



Please visit our website at: <http://www.wsgalleryandgifts.com>

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