

Audi Five Cities Showcase:

~ Moving Towards ~

by artist Sandra Turner-Barlow



Friday 1st September to Friday 6th October
at the Welcome Swallow Gallery



Audi Five Cities Showcase: Moving Towards

In the face of social upheaval, amid times of uncertainty, art can be daring. Picasso's *Guernica* is perhaps the most powerful commentary on the horrors of war. Likewise, many of Caravaggio's 17th century masterpieces tilted against the accepted religious canons of the day. More recently, an unprecedented global pandemic has seen today's artists respond with their own reactions towards extraordinary fractures in civil society.

Rather than painting personal pandemic-inspired reflections, Sandra Turner-Barlow presents a grand narrative of New Zealand's five major cities, capturing what she determines as their current critical moving parts. Presenting a unique series of stylised oil paintings entitled, *Moving Towards*, she invites the viewer to not only see what is, but to engage in a conversation as to what each city might be moving towards as they establish their own post pandemic status.

Each city painting contains implicit socio-political tones that create the potential for insight, momentum and dialogue. Turner-Barlow concentrates on the major themes that each city currently encounters. The Auckland crossroads lead respectively towards One Tree Hill and the Sky Tower, images of Māori and European dominion. Wellington's (koru) tectonic plates potentially impact both cultural and political institutions. The Christchurch uninhabited 'black' zones created by the 2011 earthquake, with adjacent doors ajar, invite participation in the city's future. Hamilton and Dunedin are each paced by natural escarpment of river and harbour, alongside noteworthy urban planning challenges of no recent date.

Capturing, presenting, and engaging with a contiguous artistic perspective of New Zealand's five major cities has not been attempted before. Turner-Barlow boldly seizes the moment asking us to examine contemporary questions of the day. Although this series of paintings does not address the search for a specific New Zealand art form, *Moving Towards* certainly shows how art can inform a deeper understanding of New Zealand's five largest cities.

Artistically, Turner-Barlow's style echoes the feel of Don Binney, landscape designs from Michael Illingworth together with the moderne senses of Rita Angus. As seen in Robin White's 2023 exhibition in the Auckland Gallery, she likewise employs a flattened perspective of some key structures thus bringing them into immediate sharp focus. A bright vibrant signature colour palette makes these compositions easily accessible to the eye. The *Welcome Swallow Gallery* celebrates this remarkable, original series of paintings by gallery artist, Sandra Turner-Barlow.



**Sandra Turner-Barlow, *Ōtautahi - Christchurch*,
Oil on Board 600x900mm** *Price on request*

Sandra Turner-Barlow

All four paintings are on loan from private collections



Tāmaki Makaurau - Auckland
Oil on Board 760x500mm



Kirikiriroa - Hamilton
Oil on Board 600x500mm



Te Whanganui-a Tara - Wellington
Oil on Board 900x600mm



Ōtepoti - Dunedin
Oil on Board 340x260mm

Sandra Turner-Barlow introduces the Audi Five City Showcase: Moving Towards

This series began in January 2021 with a fortuitous trip to Dunedin. Inspiration for me comes from everywhere - words, feelings and ideas, as well as direct observation and experience. Each composition in this series shows a series of urban tensions that the viewer is invited to contemplate, perhaps with resolution in mind. Hence the title, Moving Towards. The comments below are far from complete and are primarily designed to stimulate discussion and insight. Each viewer can add their own narrative to these compositions.

Auckland

The motorways overlapping each other in Auckland symbolize the cross-roads of the many challenges that Auckland (and New Zealand) finds itself facing. There is also the very literal symbolization of the Auckland transport system challenges. On a deeper level, the obelisk of One Tree Hill and the Sky Tower represent two different cultures. This, in turn, reflects potentially different views of history. The challenge, and hope, is that we can establish and move towards a rich dialogue.

Hamilton

This composition shows the separation between urban and rural and how the growing city is encroaching steadily toward Taupiri onto the fertile farmland. It shows the city, East and West being separated by the mighty Waikato River. Despite ongoing vigorous attempts to 'face the river' the move towards integration with the city remains a formidable challenge. In this sense, the single truck on the Victoria bridge represents a crossing point rather than a 'river and city' amalgamation.

Wellington

The power struggle starts at the very foundation of the Wellington composition with the koru representing the separate tectonic plates ever-threatening presence under the surface. The Beehive is positioned behind Te Papa to show the separation and true seat of power and dominance is with our people. This idea is reinforced by the multi-coloured houses representing our multicultural country. Wellington is also the only composition in the series with clouds - are they moving in or have they passed by?

Christchurch

Christchurch was the last painting in the series and was possibly the most challenging. The composition shows the tragedy of recent events that included enormous physical and emotional separation. Yet it also needed to capture a unified desire to move forward to overcome the separation. The buildings dominate the foreground and represent the strength of the people of Christchurch standing together. The dark empty spaces separating the buildings are both figurative, suggestive and literal. The three doors ajar are invitations to move towards the city's future. In the distance the rolling Canterbury plains weave their way toward the Southern Alps, suggesting permanence and sustainability in the face of adversity.

Dunedin

This painting challenges the modern city architecture that sits alongside more settler-styled buildings. The grey cube in the foreground is the only structure that forebodingly casts a shadow, while the more traditional dwellings point toward the iconic peninsula bounded by Otakou and Harrington Point. The simple features of this composition belie a more complex social commentary. The sub-text is that it is the harbour that offers the real view of the city.

At Audi New Zealand, we pride our selves on performance, great design and innovative thinking. We see Turner-Barlow's superb showcase representing our five big cities moving towards sustainable futures.

Greg Leet, General Manager, Audi New Zealand

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

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The Welcome Swallow Gallery

Structure & Place



1st Sept - 6th October 2023



1.

Hong Cumming

Bridge Over
Watercolour
340x530mm
Price: \$2000

2.



Rebecca Dowman-Ngapo

A Bridge Through Time
Watercolour
400x580mm
Price: \$2000

MONTANA
FOOD AND EVENTS

Exhibition Sponsors

3.



Hong Cumming

Public Trust Building, Wellington

Watercolour

520x330mm

Price: \$1750

4.



Rebecca Dowman-Ngapo

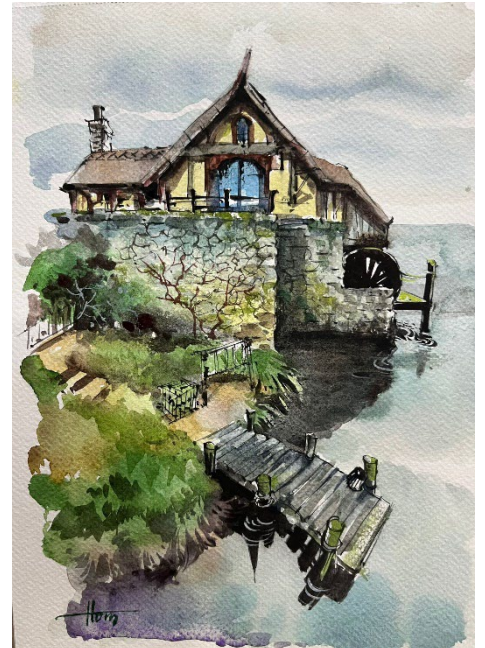
Beale House

Watercolour

400x580mm

Price: \$1700

6.



5.



Rebecca Dowman-Ngapo

Blossoming Sanctuary

Watercolour

400x580mm

Price: \$1700

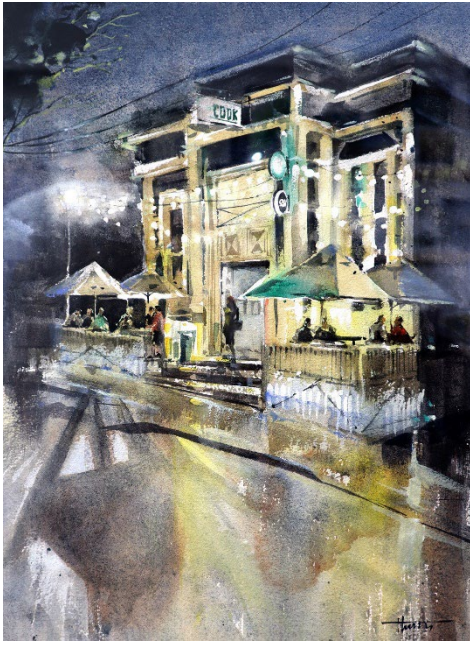
Hong Cumming

The Millhouse

Watercolour

280x200mm

Price: \$750



7.

8.



Hong Cumming

The Cook

Watercolour

440x330mm

Price: \$1750

Hong Cumming

Tower Building, Hamilton

Watercolour

420x265mm

Price: \$2000

9.



Gavin Smith

Hood Street in the Rain

Watercolour

300x510mm

Price: \$1200

10.



Sandra Turner-Barlow

Homage to Hopper

Oil on Board

600x900mm

Price: \$5000

11.



Sandra Turner-Barlow

Homage to Rita

Oil on Board

500x400mm

Price: \$1000

12.



Sandra Turner-Barlow

Hill Houses

Oil on Board

600x450mm

Price: \$1150

13.



Sandra Turner-Barlow

The Back Door

Oil on Board

300x400mm

Price: \$850