



~ Showcase ~

Sport and Hollywood: The Art of Performance

by artist Debra Thompson



Friday 8th July – Saturday 30th July
at the Welcome Swallow Gallery

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Sport and Hollywood: The Art of Performance

Art is typically associated with pleasant pictures to admire while pondering the prodigious skills of the artist. Picasso's famous Spanish Civil War inspired painting, *Guernica*, begs to differ. When art is daring and controversial it can flirt with insights that may reveal the central thread of life. Yet art can also offer very human insights in the form of celebration of widely recognised, extraordinary talents. In this special Showcase, the *Welcome Swallow Gallery* is hosting four 'superstars' entitled **Sport and Hollywood: The Art of Performance**. Each share unparalleled performance at a peak level that catches the imagination. From sport, Jonah Lomu and Shane Warne both defined and transcended the sporting codes of their generations. Respectively, rugby and cricket underwent tectonic shifts in how the game was played and also in the scale of those who watched it.

Film stars Michael Caine in *Alfie* and the *Ipccress File* and Elizabeth Taylor in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* and *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* were at the peak of their powers during the 1960s. Taylor began her career almost two decades earlier, while Caine continues to delight film critics and the public. However, It was during the 1960s that both established their iconic footprint in the consciousness of the world.

We are both proud and excited to host New Zealand artist, **Debra Thompson** who has brought these four famous figures together. In addition to celebration, these stunning contemporary compositions, superbly rendered in their own right, provide profound social and human commentary. The conversations between them however, will only last for the duration of this special Showcase.



Jonah Shane
Elizabeth Michael

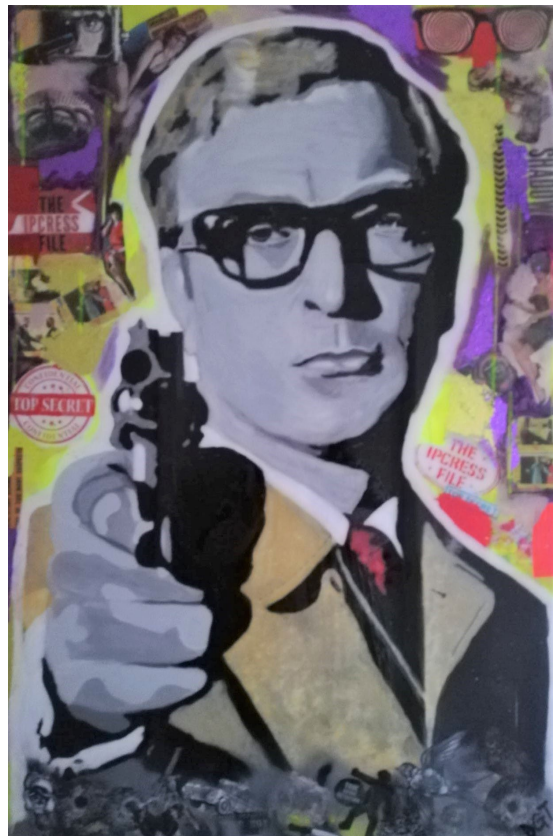


Debra Thompson

Acrylic and Mixed Media on Board

1200x800mm

Price: \$4,000 each



~ Debra Thompson ~

Based in Hawkes 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 board, using spray paint and acrylics that is then finished with paint, pens and oil sticks.

The *Sport and Hollywood* 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 the popular consciousness.

In this collection, portraits of *Jonah Lomu*, *Shane Warne*, *Elizabeth Taylor* and *Michael Caine* each at the peak of their powers, provide insight into the world of celebrity that is defined by extraordinary performance and human endeavour manifest in world acclaim, recognition and influence. As with artist *Banksy*, Thompson specialises in bringing the distant iconography of globally recognized figures to street level.



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

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