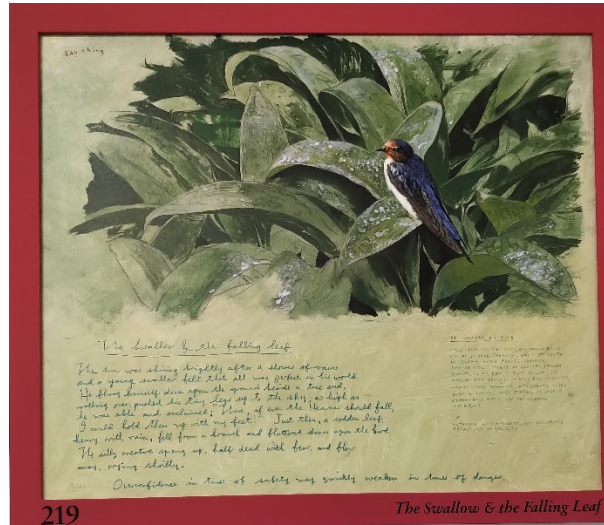


# RAY CHING

## The Swallow & the Falling Leaf



Born in 1939 in Wellington, Raymond Ching is renowned as New Zealand's leading contemporary bird and figure painter. Ching has been called an "artist's artist" and among bird painters is a draughtsman without peer.

Ching began exhibiting his bird paintings in the 1960s. His first exhibition *Thirty Birds*, in 1968 was a sell-out. This led to the commissioning of 230 full colour studies that formed the basis of the *The Reader's Digest Book of British Birds*, published in 1969. It became the world's most successful and biggest selling ornithological book. This enthusiastic reception subsequently led Ching to produce a series of natural history books including: '*The Bird Paintings*', 1978, '*Studies & Sketches of a Bird Painter*', 1981, '*The Art of Raymond Ching*.'

In 2014 he published '*Dawn Chorus – The Fables*' with *The Swallow & the Falling Leaf*, as part of the pictorial and written narrative. The painting seen here is the original composition used for the book.

Ching exhibits regularly in New Zealand and around the world. Venues include the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum in Wisconsin; Brighton Art Gallery and Museum, England; the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. His paintings are held in numerous private and public collections, such as those of the National Museum of Wildlife Art in the USA, and portraits from his exhibition *A True Story* are held in the Dunedin Public Art Gallery and The Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa.