

ARTIS

G A L L E R Y

RAYMOND CHING

New Zealand b. 1939

Born in 1939 in Wellington, Raymond Ching is renowned as New Zealand's leading contemporary bird painter. A renowned artist of life-like portraits, in the wildlife genre, he paints obsessively to push the boundaries of birds.

Ching began exhibiting his bird paintings in the 1960s. His first exhibition, *Thirty Birds*, in 1968 was a sell-out, attracting the attention of Sir William Collins of Collins Publishing. Sir William, a keen ornithologist, invited Ching to the United Kingdom to produce a book of his bird paintings. However, upon his arrival Ching met with the publishers of *The Reader's Digest* who, along with Collins Publishing, intended to produce a major book on the birds of Britain. Ching was commissioned to paint 230 full-colour studies, and *The Reader's Digest Book of British Birds*, published in 1969, became the world's most successful and biggest selling ornithological book.

This enthusiastic reception led Ching to produce a series of natural history books. Eleven books documenting his paintings have been published which include: *'The Bird Paintings'*, 1978, *'Studies & Sketches of a Bird Painter'*, 1981, *'The Art of Raymond Ching'*, 1981, *'Wild Portraits'*, 1988, *'Ray Harris Ching*,

In 2010 Ching ventured into the genre of graphic novels with the first publication by David Bateman Publishing, *'Aesop's Kiwi Fables - Painting Ray Ching'*. This publication accompanied the first of two exhibitions at ARTIS Gallery (2010, and 2012). In 2014, *Dawn Chorus* was published (also by Bateman Publishing) and accompanied another two further exhibitions at ARTIS in 2014 and 2015.

'Aesop's Outback Fables' was published in 2018 by Artis Gallery, concurrent with his exhibition of the same year. The book *'Fabled Lands'*, was launched simultaneously with an exhibition across ARTIS and Jonathan Grant Gallery in October 2021. His latest book *'The Huia & Our Tears'* was published in 2024, along with an exhibition at ARTIS in October that year.

In 2012 Ching was commissioned by Sir David Attenborough to paint a large oil on canvas, which was used to illustrate the cover of Attenborough's book, *Drawn from Paradise*. Ching completed a 1.8 x 2.4 m oil on canvas titled, *End to the Squandering of Beauty (Entry of the Birds of Paradise into Western Thought)*.

Living in Wiltshire, UK, Ching continues to paint birds and animals, as well as remarkably life-like portraits. paintings layer upon layer, often leaving the underdrawing peeking through the transparent paint.

Ching exhibits regularly in New Zealand at ARTIS Gallery. He has also exhibited in many parts of the world, including the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, USA and in Johannesburg. His paintings are held in numerous private and public collections, such as those of the National Museum of Wildlife Art in the USA.

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SOLO EXHIBITIONS:

- 2024 The Huia & our Tears, ARTIS Gallery Auckland
- 2021 Fabled Lands, ARTIS Gallery, Auckland
- 2019 The Voyage, ARTIS Gallery, Auckland
- 2018 Aesop's Outback Fables, ARTIS Gallery, Auckland
- 2015 Dawn Chorus – The Fables, ARTIS Gallery, Auckland
- 2014 Dawn Chorus, ARTIS Gallery, Auckland
- 2012 Aesop's Kiwi Fables (part 2) ARTIS Gallery, Auckland
- 2010 Aesop's Kiwi Fables, ARTIS Gallery, Auckland
- 2008 Autobiography, ARTIS Gallery, Auckland
- 2007 Ark, ARTIS Gallery, Auckland
Constellation, The Tryon Gallery, London
- 2005 The Last Tree Fell, ARTIS Gallery, Auckland
- 2004 Ray Ching: Bird Paintings, Pacific Galleries, LaFayette, California
- 2002 Ray Ching: Measured Drawings, Tinakori Gallery, Wellington; John Leech Gallery, Auckland
- 2001 Ray Ching: Fragments, 10 Paintings, Tinakori Gallery, Wellington; John Leech Gallery, Auckland
- 2000 Ray Ching: Paintings, (A True Story), Tinakori Gallery, Wellington, NZ
Jonathan Grant Galleries, Auckland, NZ
- 1998 Ray Ching: A True Story, Tryon & Swann Gallery, London
Ray Ching: A True Story, Rye Gallery, England
Everard Read Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1997 Beds, 8 Paintings by Ray Ching, Everard Read Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1996 Ray Harris Ching, Recent Paintings, Everard Read Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1994 Voice from the Wilderness, paintings and drawings, The Tryon Gallery, London
The SAPPI Commission, paintings and drawings, The Everard
Read Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
Southern African Bird Portraits, The SAPPI Collection, Central
City Gallery, London, England

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- 1993 Recent Paintings & Drawings, The Tryon Gallery, London
- 1989 Paintings & Drawings, Charlotte H. Gallery, Auckland
Drawings of New Zealand Birds, Charlotte H. Gallery, Auckland
- 1988 Wild Portraits, Rye Art Gallery, England; The Tryon & Moorland
Galleries, London; The Australian Galleries / The Tryon Gallery,
Melbourne, Australia
- 1986 The Gilded Triptych & Recent Wildlife Paintings, The Tryon &
Moorland Galleries, London
- 1982 Ray Ching: Paintings & Drawings, International Art Centre, Auckland
Bird Paintings & Sketches, Tryon & Moorland Galleries, London
- 1980 Paintings, International Art Centre, Auckland
- 1977 Ray Ching: Recent Paintings & Drawings, Rye Gallery, England; International Art Centre,
Auckland
- 1976 Drawings, The Falcon Gallery, Auckland
- 1967 Studies of New Zealand Wildlife, John Leech Gallery, Auckland
- 1966 Thirty Birds, John Leech Gallery, Auckland
Drawings of New Zealand Birds, Charlotte H. Gallery, Auckland
- 1982 Birds in Art Exhibition, Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum,
Wisconsin, USA
- 1981 Society of Animal Artists' Exhibition, Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, USA
Tryon & Moorland Artists' Major Wildlife Exhibition, Tryon Gallery, London
- 1980 Birds in Art Exhibition, Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum, Wisconsin, USA
- 1979 Society of Animal Artist's Exhibition, Sportsman's Edge/Explorer's Club, New York, USA
Birds in Art Exhibition, Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum, Wisconsin, USA
- 1977 Jubilee Exhibition, The Tryon & Moorland Galleries, London
- 1976 Animal Art, Pieter Wenning Gallery / Tryon Gallery, South Africa
- 1975 Endangered Species, The Tryon Gallery, London
- 1974 Bird Books and Bird Art, The Moorland Gallery, London
- 1972 Bird Artists of the World, The Tryon Gallery, London

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SELECTED COLLECTIONS:

Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington, New Zealand

Auckland City Art Gallery, New Zealand

Dunedin Public Art Gallery, New Zealand

Suter Gallery Nelson, New Zealand

Solitaire Lodge, Rotorua, New Zealand

Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum, Wisconsin, USA

National Museum of Wildlife Art, USA