

## **BOBBY KURB**

Bobby Kurb, living in New Zealand. Born Auckland, 1971. Raised from 5 yrs of age in England. Went from living on a beach to living in a brick jungle. Hated it - still do. Childhood hasn't got good memories - some of which I won't discuss. Hit by a car and drowned (nearly - i.e. got saved) 8 yrs of age. Bullied at school. Went to college Reading College of Art and Technology - got distinctions - more bullying and injunction placed on 30 students for abuse with scaffold poles and knives - let alone the gun being pointed at my head. Suffered with depression most of my childhood thru to early twenties when suffered a breakdown.

First piece of art made that I remember was as a child I drew bird men - human bodies, bird head, and wheels as feet wearing long tailed coats and top hat. I remember that clearly to this day - I must have been about 5 or 6. But, I have always made art even from younger.

Thru my important school years we had little to no teachers due to N.U.T. strikes. I went to college to an art course interview at 16 and walked out of the interview - disillusioned. All they wanted was to debate art - I wanted to make it. As I walked out one of the lecturers interviewing shouted out down the corridor - "you'll never make it as an artist" - that was the best fuel you could ever give someone like me at that age.

Highlights of my career - just selling a piece of art is a highlight. That said I have works all over the world in collections private and corporate. I have sold works up to \$45,000.00 - so can't complain. Had a 9 meter canvas exhibited in Timary public gallery the Aigantighe - thought it was a mixed show but turned out my work was only one on the wall for the 3 weeks. Won a national art competition at 8 in the UK for ages 5 to 14 - never entered a competition since. Other highlights are being ripped off by 5 agents and dealers in 20 yrs and losing over \$300,000 as a consequence.

I didn't really decide to become an artist it just came about and called me and I am pretty much useless at anything else to be honest. Love Mitchel, Kooning, Pissaro, Freud, Ralph Hotere, Ben Nicolson, Marco Grassi and a load more which I could keep listing - tbh most artists inspire me either to work harder or to give completely as there is a lot of junk out there.

Success is relative. Being alive is success. And coping with the crap that life throws at you.

Artist life lonely? Yes and no. I wish it were more so - too many people cause too much pain.

My work has taken a number of different routes. These are the three most powerful in my opinion.

'The Abuse of Beauty' series is about abuse against females in particular (although any abuse is abhorrent) - it started when I met a young girl about my own age at the time (20 ish) who was very pretty but her face was black and blue with tears running down her cheeks - that image of her standing in front of me has never left me and never will.

'Paint by Numbers - The Meaning of Life' series is about the way most humans live. Rat race, cycle of monotony. Work, bleed and work more to line someone else's pockets for what? When you die you take nothing with you - its futile. The irony is of course that some structure to peoples lives and routines can bring about a harmony or meaning to someone - it's the juxtaposition that is intriguing. It's my most positive series.

'Black slab' series is about the journey of grief really. Long or short our lives may cross or not may take a turn or not for good or bad - sometimes our own fault sometimes non of our doing. Either way we all end up the same way rich or poor, black or white, healthy or not, famous or not. Some of the studies for this series look at civilians innocent of crimes who have been imprisoned, tortured or abused for doing nothing but breathing... but, it all boils down to grief - just looking and hearing about all this crap around the globe.

My philosophy in art is: Keep it real - just do it. It doesn't matter what the critics say, doesn't matter what anyone's opinion is on your art - it is your art. As long as it comes from the heart then who can judge it? Yes there is bad art and good art and lots of variations in between but they are personal opinions at the end of it all and are 'masters' really masters or just artists who have got the lime light thru the academy system or marketing system or any other system they find or someone else finds to make money?. The art world like most 'systems' (like accountancy, lawyers etc etc) it's fake - like is a lawyer worth \$500 for a letter? Art is no different.

Apart from art I love working on CGI and model making - other creative outlets. Other than that if I'm really chilling then a whisky on the Northwest coast of Scotland listening to the wind in the long grass is always good.

Best advice: don't do it

Next generation advice: you haven't got long

#### **WORKS IN PRIVATE AND PUBLIC COLLECTIONS:**

U.K.  
New Zealand  
U.S.A  
France  
Egypt  
South Korea  
Australia  
Oman

#### **GALLERIES EXHIBITED:**

Aigantighe Public Gallery - Timaru  
AAG - Ashburton Public Art Gallery  
McAtamney Gallery - Geraldine

**OTHER WORKS OTHER GALLERIES:**

The Gallery - Virginia Water, UK

Woolff Gallery - London

The Clifton Gallery - Bristol

Art Connection - Eton

Henley Century Galleries - Henley on Thames

Jonathan Grant Gallery - Auckland

Central Gallery - Queenstown

Art South - Gore

Chocolart Gallery - Ashburton

Forsyth Barr - Christchurch