

Darren Gilbert

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www.facebook.com/darren.gilbert.503

For further details and latest artworks go to Darren's website.

Victoria Australia

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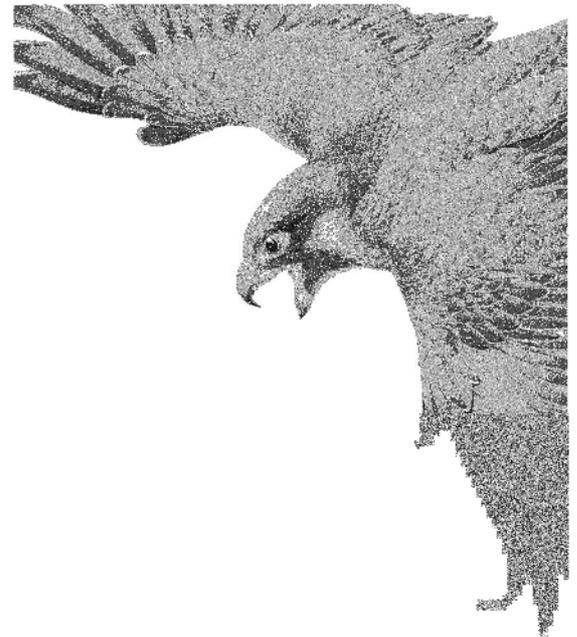
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My career started much the same way as many others in the arts community – at school and with parental inspiration. I was very interested in drawing and painting at a young age and at 15 I entered into Queensland University to study an Associate Diploma of Fine Arts, with a part scholarship for sculpting in the early 80's. This is when the arts really opened up to me and over the next few years, new and exciting ideas and techniques were explored.

I find it very uncomfortable to be labelled an artist as I know it is not an easy passion to pursue. In this field of endeavour you are always learning, changing and challenging yourself, to me it becomes addictive - to create and explore an idea and to successfully "pull it off" is an adrenaline kick - but only for a moment and then the questions, how can I do it better? Lloyd Rees once said "I will never stop painting until I find the perfect light or perfect colour, but the challenge is to pursue the perfect painting" or words to that effect. So to be an artist is never really achieved until the process is complete - until death. I hope this makes sense in an odd sort of way.

'Peregrine Falcon' pen and ink

When I finished my time at Queensland University, I worked for a few years at various jobs, then took a year off work to travel around Australia drawing and painting along the way. It was a period of time that really kindled my interest in wildlife, especially birds. After experiencing Australia close up and being inspired by the writings of people like Tim Flannery, I soon realized how unique Australian wildlife is. To be able to adapt and evolve to survive on a drop of water- the harshness of our environment means that we have the most resilient and beautiful wildlife in the world. I think our challenge is to learn how to adapt and evolve beside our amazing wildlife and environment - a process which can enhance our quality of life whilst preserving that of the creatures that we share this island continent with.



In the early 90's I returned to university to study graphic design when computer technology was taking over the industry but traditional methods were still being taught. I then worked as a graphic designer for the next ten years or so as well as getting married and having kids, taking a particular interest in computer technology and what could be achieved with it. I moved into a freelancing position, giving away the 9to5 routine and set up my own company called Monkey Tail Design which encompasses all aspects - graphic design, commercial illustration (digital and traditional) and fine art.

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Again during this period I was always drawing and painting wildlife. I had a solo exhibition in 1999 and since joining WASA am proud to have exhibited in many WASA major exhibitions, along with numerous group, community, fine art and my own solo exhibitions.

My fine artworks and sculpture are now in a number of outlets in country Victoria.

Awards

Fine art award highlights

Tallarook Art Society - Peoples Choice Award 2014

Wildlife Art Society of Australasia (WASA) - Highly Commended 2013

Tallarook Art Society - Peoples Choice Award 2013

Tallarook Art Society - Goulburn Valley Water Award 2012

Travelling Scholarship 2011 - Noosa Regional Gallery - one of 40 finalists

WASA - Highly Commended 2010

WASA (All About Wildlife) - Most Popular Artwork Runners up, 2009

WASA - Highly Commended 2007 and 2008

WASA - at BOCA - Runner up 2008

Yea Rotary Art Show - Highly Commended Award 2007

Tallarook Art Society - Endangered Flora & Fauna Award 2007

WASA - Drawing Award 1997

Design award highlights

Design for Print Awards 2002, 2001, 1999 and 1996

14+ solo exhibitions in the last 17 years

Numerous group and community fine art exhibitions and participated in numerous graphic design, illustration award shows and exhibitions.

Open Studio scheduled for first weekend of each month 2742 Highlands Road, Highlands
Please phone to confirm before visiting



*Metal sculpture
'Flat Fish Circle'*

