

# Rebecca Hawkes:

## Artist

### About me:

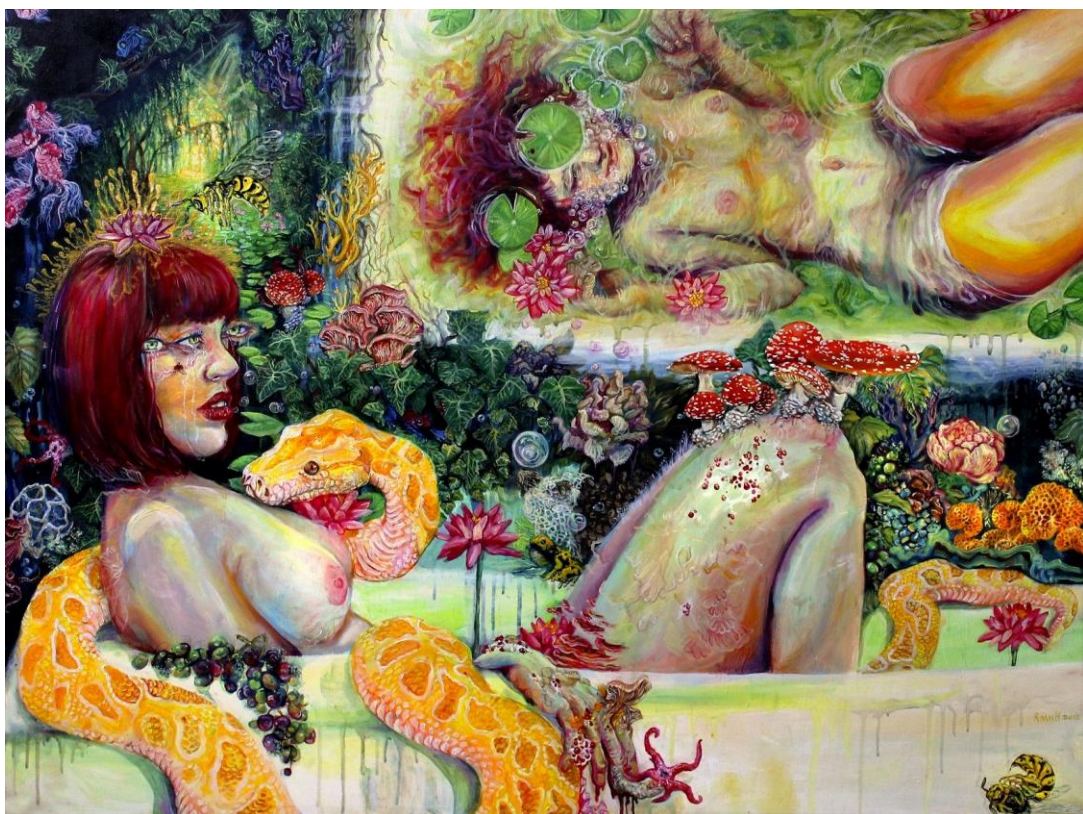
I'm a freelance oil painter, poet, and sculptor. Raised roaming valleys of honeydewed beech forest and tussock-clad alpine farmland in the mid-Canterbury high country, I am now based in the windy city of Wellington, New Zealand. I relish in working across multiple media and my recent projects include paintings, sculptures, digital illustration, zines, murals, poetry, and lyric essays.



My visual artwork is informed by the “natural” world and botanical illustration; mythology, symbolism, and the occult; and lived experiences traversing the cultural performance of femininity and queer sexuality. I aim to make art that evokes a bodily rawness and fervency, and reveals the inherent tension between notions of the grotesque and the beautiful.

In 2012 I was awarded the national NZQA award for Top Scholar in Painting for my highschool painting portfolio. I have continued to grow an artistic practice alongside my academic studies, regularly taking on commissioned works. I have also arranged and curated three exhibitions in central Wellington to showcase not only my own work but other emerging artists' as well. Let me know if you're interested in collaborating with me.

I hold a Bachelor of Arts in Media Studies from Victoria University of Wellington and a Master of Arts with Distinction in Creative Writing from the International Institute of Modern Letters. Publications of my poetry and non-fiction can be found in literary journals such as *Starling*, *Sport*, *Up Country*, *Mayhem*, and *Turbine*.





## Contact:

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## Education:

**International Institute of Modern Letters, Wellington: 2016.**

**Master of Arts:**

Creative Writing: Nonfiction. Master of Arts with Distinction (A+) from the International Institute of Modern Letters. My thesis was an essay collection titled *Skin Hunger*.

**Victoria University of Wellington, Wellington: 2013-2017.**

**Bachelor of Arts:**

Major in Media Studies and Minor in Creative Writing, 2013-2015.

**Honours:**

Media Studies, 2017.

## Scholarships:

**2016:** VUW Master's Scholarship: A fully funded scholarship, of which only 32 are offered across the whole of VUW. **2014:** Inclusion on Dean's List. VUW Excellence Award Scholarship. **2013:** Story Inc. Prize for Poetry. **2012:** Outstanding Scholarship and national NZQA Award for Top Scholar in Painting. The Dorothy Bates Trophy ("awarded to a pupil who shows outstanding potential during her years at school"). NZQA Scholarships in English and Media Studies. Victoria University of Wellington Excellence Scholarship. NCEA Level 3 with overall Excellence endorsement. Senior Creative Writing Cup. First in Media Studies and Painting for class of 2012. Academic Colours, and Elite Colours in Creative Writing.

## Recent Literary Publications:

Poetry and nonfiction lyric essays in: *Mayhem* (issue 5, forthcoming), *Sport* (issue 45), *Starling* (issues 1 and 4), *Turbine* (2016), and *Radio New Zealand National*.

Educational writing / science communication in: *Up Country* (2016), and *Connected* (Ministry of Education) (2016).







## Exhibitions:

### **December 2016: Curator and featured artist in ‘*Exhibitionism*’ at Thistle Hall Gallery, Wellington.**

I curated, organised, and made work for this group showcase of local and international artists working in Wellington’s sex industry, fundraising over \$900 for Wellington Rape Crisis.

### **August 2015: Featured artist in ‘*Sculpture Garden*’ at Matchbox Gallery, Wellington.**

For this sculptural show I created a large body of works focused on reimagining organic forms. Working primarily in oil paints and polymer clay, I drew on the lushness of jungle environments and the tensions between wild and domestic; predator and prey.

### **May 2015: Project manager, curator, and featured artist for ‘*Phüngii*’ at Matchbox Gallery, Wellington.**

I organised and curated this show celebrating myth and mycology in paintings and sculptural works that featured the psychedelic and strange. I showcased my own works alongside those of emerging artists Gemma Proebst, Tomas Richards, and Isobel Joy te Aho-White.

### **December 2014- January 2015: Exhibited in group shows at Matchbox Gallery, Wellington, and ROAR! Gallery, Wellington.**

## Murals:

### **January-February 2015: Muralist for Flowers Manuela on Cuba St, Wellington.**

Contract via Phantom Billstickers. Although Flowers Manuela has since relocated, the mural remains (of a kotuku / white heron in a mantle of native fungi).

### **June 2014: Muralist for Suzhou Gallery, Willis St, Wellington.**

A golden plum tree spanning a black wall. This mural has been erased with the end of Suzhou Gallery’s lease in the building.







*Commissioned set of wardrobe doors: interior (left) and exterior (right).  
Private commission, 2016. Acrylic and oil paints on wood.*