

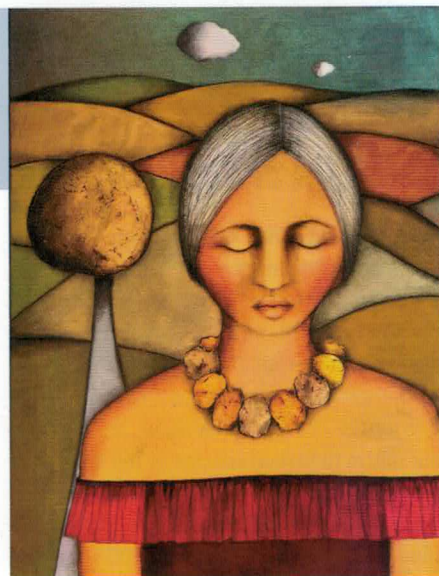
Connecting through art

Bay of Plenty gallery has an eye for unique perspectives.

Founded in 2014, The Art Lounge NZ is a fine-art gallery and event venue in Tauranga's CBD, dedicated to showcasing emerging and established New Zealand-based artists whose unique styles stand out and move viewers. The gallery's curated collection of works by award-winning artists includes abstracts, portraits and surreal-influenced pieces. In early 2019, the gallery relocated to a larger space in downtown Tauranga to suit their expanding programme of events.

Slovakia-born Mira Corbova, the gallery's owner, curator and an abstract artist herself, is passionate and dedicated to art, the art community and mentoring emerging artists. "I have shifted focus since immigrating to New Zealand. I went from working in the busy corporate world of event management in London, to following my passion for the arts in beautiful Aotearoa.

Gallery artists include Vjekoslav Nemesh, a multi-award-winning artist who has established world-wide recognition for his unique, authentic and visionary style. Dalene Meiring, whose works are rich in colour, harmonious in form, and portray a balance between vitality and silent meditation. Ingrid Boot, whose figurative works capture an essence of timeless elegance, inspired by fashion history and movie icons of a bygone era. Anna Filimonova, a multi-award-winning emerging artist whose first solo exhibition, *White Rooms*, was curated by Corbova in 2018, is another great example of the gallery's artists demonstrating unique style. Filimonova perceives the world both as it is, with a particular love of New Zealand landscape, and as it might be – colourful and surreal. Her interweaving of natural and fantastical imagery seeks to challenge us to tell stories about ourselves and our environment.



Dalene Meiring, *Autumn Glory*, oil on canvas

"The gallery's aim is to inspire and encourage people through creativity and to provide a unique, high-quality art-buying experience in the Bay of Plenty region. We connect with the community by offering workshops, exhibitions and events that inspire, encourage, educate and entertain, while recognising excellence in the visual arts. We envision a gallery accessible to all art lovers and art collectors as a vibrant visual space to enjoy and be inspired through creativity. Our motto is 'Connecting through art,' which is exactly what we do by featuring a group of carefully selected artists in the gallery, and hosting exclusive exhibitions and inspirational events such as Inspirational Speakers, Art and Fashion Show and Artists' Interviews."

In My Bubble, a group exhibition, runs to 10 September, and Nancy Tschetner's *Texture and Contrast*, *The Beauty Surrounding Us*, runs from 11 September to 8 October at The Art Lounge NZ, Tauranga. theartlounge.nz



Vjekoslav Nemesh, *Pegasus Game Changer*, oil on canvas

My vision is to raise the culture and quality of art within the industry here. It is a pure joy to work with each artist I represent, and it brings me happiness to add sparkle to my client's day with a fabulous piece of art.

"Art is like a box of chocolates to me. I want to open it and indulge in the burst of colour that feeds my soul, share it with others. Art tells a story and colour is the emotion. Art expresses individuality, creativity and feelings, and it benefits wellbeing. It's all about connection, as with everything in life.

"I am continually thinking outside the box in terms of what I can do next to help New Zealanders realise the value and importance of art, as well as to support and nurture our amazing artists. I am very proud and honoured to work with so many talented creators."



Anna Filimonova, *I Cry for No Clear Reason*, acrylic on canvas