

# JP BELL

ARTIST CV

John Paul M. Belarmino

Filipino-born Abstract Artist and  
Urban Neo-Expressionist  
*Timaru, Aotearoa New Zealand*

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## INTERDISCIPLINARY PRACTICE

### POETRY

Internationally recognised poet with participation in poetry and cultural events across multiple countries.

### STREET PHOTOGRAPHY

Published internationally, including Vogue Italia / PhotoVogue.

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## ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

JP Bell is a Filipino-born contemporary artist, poet, and street photographer based in Timaru, New Zealand, whose works have been exhibited across the Philippines, New Zealand, Canada, Iceland and Cyprus.

Recognised in 2012 as *The Empowered Poet and Artist of the Year* by World Poetry International at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada, his practice explores mortality and transformation through abstract art and urban neo-expressionist form.

In 2013, he received the *Inspirational Poet 2013* award at the National Museum of the Philippines, presented during the World Friendship Poetry Celebration organised by the National Library of the Philippines, Pentasi B Poetry, and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (Philippines).

Bell's street photography has been published in Vogue Italia and other international publications, reflecting the breadth of his interdisciplinary practice.

Bell is scheduled to present a major solo exhibition at the Aigantighe Art Gallery, Timaru, from December 2028 to February 2029, with his work already held in private collections across Germany, Australia, New Zealand and the Philippines.

Central to Bell's work is Ōamaru Stone, a limestone formed some 34 million years ago beneath New Zealand's ancient seas. By embedding it directly into his paintings, Bell fuses a fragment of the country's deep geological history into each canvas, creating works at the intersection of contemporary art, archaeology, and cultural memory.

## CONTACT

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Mobile: +64 21 724 566

Instagram: [@jp\\_abstractart](https://www.instagram.com/jp_abstractart)

Website: [www.jpandsusan.com](http://www.jpandsusan.com)

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## EDUCATION

1997–2003, University of the Philippines  
Los Baños, Philippines, Bachelor of Science in  
Agricultural Economics

2005–2006, School of Law, University of Nueva  
Caceres, Philippines

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## SELECTED AWARDS

2012: "The Empowered Poet and Artist of the Year" awarded by World Poetry International, University of British Columbia, Vancouver (Canada)

2013: "Inspirational Poet 2013" award at the National Museum of the Philippines, presented during the World Friendship Poetry Celebration organised by the National Library of the Philippines, Pentasi B Poetry, and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, (Philippines)

2026: Juror's Choice Award – 7th International Artist of the Year Competition, awarded by the Circle Foundation for the Arts, Lyon, France, recognising exceptional artistic strength, clarity of vision, and accomplished execution.

2026: Finalist, 10th Annual Kumeū Arts Awards

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## WORKS IN PUBLIC SPACES

Timaru Art Trail, Venture Timaru,  
New Zealand (ongoing)

The Poetry Machine, City Library, Palmerston  
North, New Zealand (ongoing)

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## REPRESENTATION

McAtamney Gallery, Geraldine, New Zealand  
Chapter1 Gallery, Christchurch, New Zealand

# RECENT & UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

## UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

### 2026

**25 October–30 November 2026** - *Group Exhibition*, Matakana Estate Gallery, Warkworth, New Zealand

**2–26 November 2026** - The 10th Annual Kumeū Arts Awards Group Exhibition, Kumeū, Auckland, New Zealand

### 2027

**28–30 May 2027**, *Group Exhibition*, The Christchurch Art Show, Te Pae Christchurch Convention Centre, Christchurch, New Zealand

### 2028/29

**8 December 2028–25 February 2029**, *Solo Exhibition*, Aigantighe Art Gallery, Timaru, New Zealand

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

### 2026

**10–18 July 2026**, *Amor Fati: Meditations on Becoming*, Chapter1

Gallery, Ōtautahi Christchurch, New Zealand

**12–30 April 2026**, *The Good Earth*, McAtamney Gallery and Design Store, Geraldine, New Zealand

### 2025

**17 January–4 February 2025**, *The Outsider. A Rebel's Canvas*, Red Bird Gallery, Timaru, New Zealand

## GROUP EXHIBITIONS

### 2026

**27 August–13 September 2026**, *Unbound Journeys*, Chapter1 Gallery, Ōtautahi Christchurch, New Zealand

**27 August - 13 September 2026**, Chapter1 Gallery, Ōtautahi Christchurch, "Suitcase Stories: The of Legends", Charity Group Exhibition

**1–3 May 2026**, The Christchurch Art Show, Te Pae Christchurch Convention Centre, Christchurch, New Zealand

### 2025

**13–16 November 2025**, Art Exhibition, The Geraldine Festival, Geraldine, New Zealand

**9 August–14 September 2025**, *Scripted*, Guest Artist, Aigantighe Art Gallery, Timaru, New Zealand

**1–5 April 2025**, *Precious Little*, Fundraiser Art Show, Red Bird Gallery, Timaru, New Zealand

### 2024

**14–17 November 2024**, Photography Exhibition, The Geraldine Festival, Geraldine, New Zealand (*People's Choice Award*)

**14–17 November 2024**, Art Exhibition, The Geraldine Festival, Geraldine, New Zealand

**23 May 2024**, Hector Black's Art Auction, Hector Black's, Timaru, New Zealand

## SELECTED ARTISTIC PARTICIPATION

**7 August 2014**, Imagine Peace Tower, Viðey Island, Reykjavík, Iceland

**15 November 2013**, World Friendship Poetry Celebration / Pentasi B Historical Forum, Marble Hall, National Museum of the Philippines, Manila, Philippines

**4–30 April 2013**, World Poetry International Peace Festival, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada

**20 October 2012**, Autumn Dance Poetry, Writers International Network Canada, Council Chambers, Richmond City Hall, Richmond, BC, Canada

**26 May 2012**, Spring Poetry Rain, Nicosia, Cyprus

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

**[S]CRIPTED – Art and Poetry Exhibition**, *Selected Poetry*. 2025

**Vogue Italia / PhotoVogue**, 7 May 2014; 13 May 2014 (Street Photography)

**Manila Bulletin**, 11 February 2013 (Poetry)

**Manila Bulletin / Picture Perfect**, 15 May 2012 (Photography)

**Spellbound – The Distinctive Poetry Book Extraordinaire**, *Selected Poetry*. Axlepin Publishing. 2012

**Frame One Magazine**, March 2013 (Photography)

## SELECTED PRESS & MEDIA

**Plains Media Radio**, 9 July 2026; 24 December 2025

**Otago Daily Times**, 15 May 2026

**The Timaru Courier**, 14 May 2026

**The Ashburton Courier / Geraldine News**, 16 April 2026

**The Timaru Herald**, 10 April 2026; 16 August 2025; 5 August 2025; 9 April 2025; 27 March 2025; 23 January 2025; 16 January 2025

**Sunday Star-Times**, 12 October 2025

**Manila Bulletin**, 11 February 2013 (featured as a poet)

**Manila Bulletin / Picture Perfect**, 15 May 2012 (featured as a photographer)

**Frame One Magazine**, March 2013 (featured as a photographer)

## COLLECTIONS

**Private Collections:** Germany, Australia, New Zealand, Philippines