JP BELL

ARTIST CV

John Paul M. Belarmino

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

INTERDISCIPLINARY PRACTICE

POETRY

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

STREET PHOTOGRAPHY

Published internationally, including Vogue Italia / PhotoVogue.

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

Email: jp_belarmino@yahoo.com
Mobile: +64 21 724 566

Instagram: @jp_abstractart
Website: www.jpandsusan.com

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

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

WORKS IN PUBLIC SPACES

Timaru Art Trail, Venture Timaru, New Zealand (ongoing)
The Poetry Machine, City Library, Palmerston North, New Zealand (ongoing)

REPRESENTATION

McAtamney Gallery, Geraldine, 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