

chapter¹

Suitcase Stories

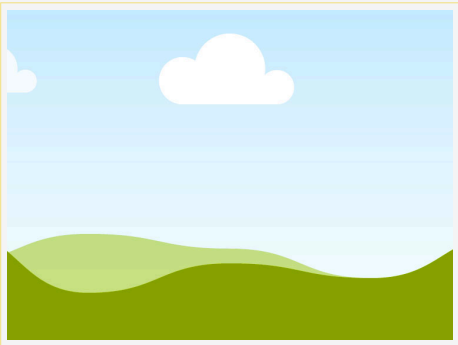
The Luggage of Legends

Suitcase Stories



P. Mang

this -coffin- (strikethrough) suitcase has been found in Japan, was handed over to the officials, who then were able to trace the origin of this suitcase all the way back to New Zealand. it is well hoped and wished for it to be found by its original owner, or at least someone who treats it well. may it be a good guide for your upcoming travels my friend.



Jordan Turner

This suitcase represents a life being filled as we travel through it, with family, friendship, love, loss, adventure, dreams and making memories. A collection of pieces of my life and the people i love , the places ive been, the memories I treasure and the places i dream of going I. There are quieter more personal stories woven through and parts representing the child within me. I hope who buys this suitcase see a reminder to travel when they can, love their people deeply, make the memories, dream about what is still to come and to never take the gift of another adventure for granted



Bodaga Cat

My English daddy was a bank robber and he fled with some money in a suitcase and found a lost cat called Bodaga. He is now in hiding



Daniel Pye

This old suitcase has been transformed into the story of a journey our family never imagined we would have to take — one marked by fear, uncertainty, resilience, hope and, ultimately, extraordinary gratitude. For 11 years, our son lived with intractable, medically resistant epilepsy. The 11 stars in the copper panel represent those years... read the bag tag to learn more.

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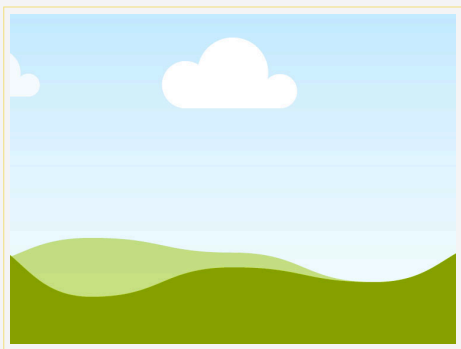
Tracy Wilson

I work at a hospital and loved that this exhibition is going to benefit such a great cause. I collect vintage suitcases and need to downsize I'm not religious, more spiritual than anything, but my art often has religious themes or might focus on iconography. This piece represents a strong theme of feminine nurturing; the real need I have for a calming serenity, its fertile and green - a place to connect with nature and space for reflection. The piece also recognises the part history has played, our ancestors, our genetic inheritance. There is reference to the gift of motherhood, fertility, protection and nurturing of children and the internal space of the suitcase amplifies this and also suggests compassion.



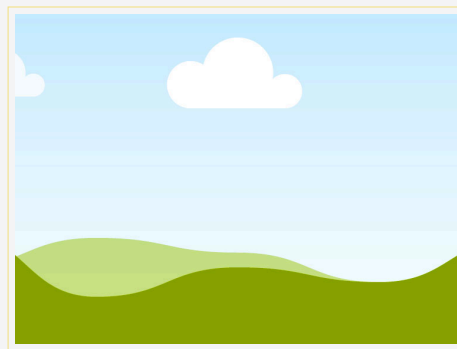
Meg Meguire

It finally happened. We had to get out, quick. They told us to pack what we needed. How was I supposed to know what the hell that meant? Peter took charge, he was all Mr Practical – warm clothes, boots, things for the journey. Mum got it though. She knew we needed stuff to start again. She snuck in the poppy seeds. She knows how much I love seeing them flower. I packed the rest. The outside considers navigation and direction — the lighthouse, marks, compass and stars — while the maps inside connect places that feel like home to me.



Lauren Carmichael

Lauren Carmichael is a Canterbury artist based in West Melton. She is a mixed media artist working in an intuitive style with acrylic paints, inks, self painted collage papers and oil pencils. Lauren loves colour, clothes, flowers and country music. Having just taken a trip to the Calgary stampede and then road tripping through the Canadian Rockies and then onwards down the Pacific coast of California she truly understands how great a journey is for the soul and also for refilling ones creative well. She believes her life is a canvas and it is her duty to paint it colourful.

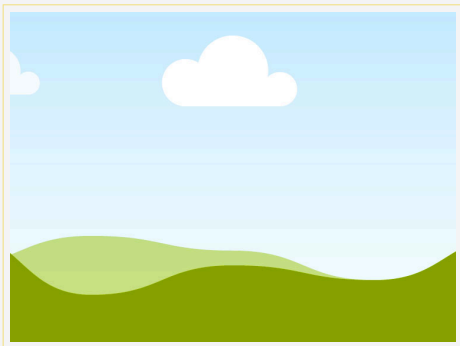


Maria Lee

For Lee, the suitcase becomes both object and metaphor: a vessel for the things women are expected to carry — histories, expectations, identities, desires, and the weight of other people's assumptions. It is dark and jaded outside yet the inside tells a different story. Her feminist painting challenges the idea that women should simply accommodate, endure and quietly move on. With a characteristic combination of sensuality, humour and defiance, Lee transforms the ordinary suitcase into a statement about female autonomy. It asks what women choose to carry and what they are told to carry. Based in Port Levy, Lee brings the physicality of her sculptural practice into her painting, creating work that is unapologetically personal, political, and grounded in the lived experience of being a woman.

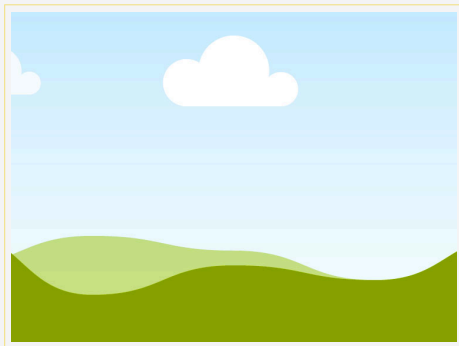
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Suitcase Stories



Elizabeth Rosa

My work draws on nature and nostalgia, exploring emotions that sit just beneath the surface. I draw much of my inspiration from the lush landscapes of Aotearoa, New Zealand environment, birds and wildlife, all of the different colours of green, women and a sense of nostalgia. Currently, I'm captivated by all shades of green—from the deep, calming tones of the forests to the fresh, vibrant hues of native ferns.



Zenobia Southcombe

This is *Nyctemera annulata*, our endemic day-flying Magpie Moth. Like butterflies, the caterpillar wraps itself in the dark safety of a cocoon to eventually emerge as a moth, its elegant black wings and feathery antennae making up for its clumsy and chaotic flight patterns. In my own time of darkness, through ill health and loneliness, it was my garden & the wildlife who inhabit it that brought me joy, companionship, and a sense of sanctuary. Like the Magpie Moth, my own journey has been clumsy and chaotic, but nonetheless I have emerged to brighter days.



Valerie Parris

his little suitcase holds the infinite horizon of childhood. Inside lives a love letter to the coast—to the salty breeze, crashing waves, and golden days spent with my late parents and brother. Outside, seascape fabric ripples beneath a constellation of glistening gems, mimicking sunlight dancing on water. Within, a miniature world awaits: a tiny matchstick deckchair, a quiet book, and a beach crafted from sand-coloured fabric. In the corner, a solitary palm tree sits nestled beside a scattering of wee stones and a tiny safety sign. Transforming this vintage case into a sanctuary of nostalgia has been my joy. It is offered today to support the Hospice and children's charities—carrying hope forward, bound to the timeless warmth of the tide.



Sayoko Pettigrew

My A-Z Series celebrates iconic Kiwi objects—one for every letter of the alphabet—brought together in a single, lively painting. I love breaking the rules of traditional composition and perspective, creating quirky, playful scenes where the unexpected feels right at home. My work blends the boldness of pop art with the influence of Japanese woodblock prints and manga. I'm originally from Japan and came to New Zealand nearly 14 years ago, which I now call home too :) Creating this series has been a fun way to explore Kiwi culture! Some letters are easy, others are definitely a challenge—but that's part of the fun! This A-Z journey is a little reflection of my own journey—curious, sometimes challenging, and always full of new discoveries. I hope you enjoy the journey too!

Suitcase Stories



Jacob Root
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Debbie Penrose
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Christ Solly - The Sodlier Man
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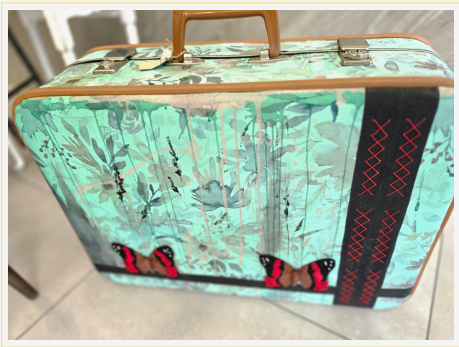
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Angelique Power

My Not So Hidden Baggage - In this piece, she brings hidden truths to the outside, revealing the vulnerability most people conceal. The suitcase forms an unmistakable timeline: childhood rests at the bottom, where early images create a foundation less innocent than it seems. Its sides trace the defining events that reshaped her, built her and left lasting marks whether she wanted them to or not. Adulthood sits at the top, built on every layer beneath it. Open the suitcase, and the inside confronts you with the physical presence of those same truths. This suitcase challenges the way we perceive identity, but it's the unseen baggage that tells the real story. If we could see the baggage everyone carries with them every day, would we still look, judge and treat everyone the same?



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Dark Ballad
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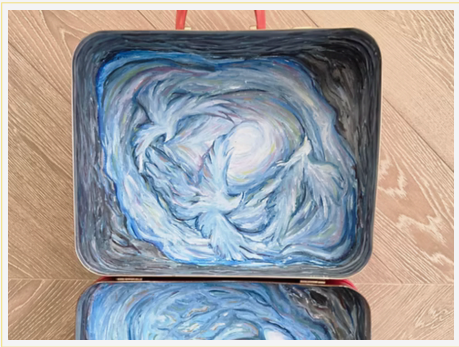
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Zac Hawkins - The Masked Artist
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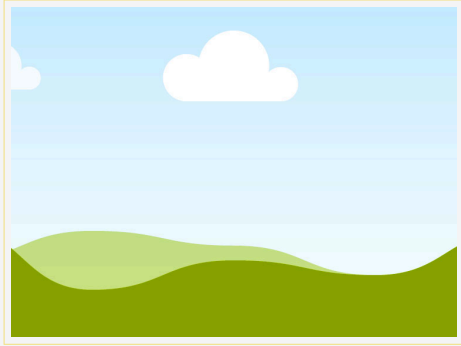
Jamie James Artist
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Zac Hawkins - The Masked Artist
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