

9 September 2009

## GALLERY GOES TO THE BIRDS

Papakura Art Gallery has gone to the birds: Clarks Beach artist Grant Whibley is showing a selection of his bird paintings in *Manu*, an exhibition that gives an overview of his work since turning professional nearly a decade ago.

Working from photographs of taxidermy bird specimens from various New Zealand museums, Mr Whibley attempts to capture a portrait view of the bird and to “bring the bird back to life”.

He says he views birds as being “something akin to a symbol of the spirit” and says his work he aims to convey the bird, the land and its people and to explore what birds mean to New Zealanders. The exhibition also includes a new painting from the recent Wallace Art Awards in which Mr Whibley was a finalist

Gallery Manager Emma Millyn says the result is an exhibition that demonstrates the wide range of ideas and influences on his art.

True to his background as a qualified teacher, Grant has also created a teaching plan, aimed at primary school children, to complement the exhibition. The teaching plan is available on the Papakura Arts website or by contacting Emma Millyn at the gallery on 297 7510.

Grant Whibley has won several awards such as the Molly Morpeth Canaday Award and the Premier Award winner of the Norsewear Awards. He is represented by Whitespace Gallery in Ponsonby.

### ***Manu***

**Grant Whibley**

**19 September – 17 October**

For further information please contact:

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