



# Fiona Maclean

[www.fionamaclean.com](http://www.fionamaclean.com)

SIGHTS

**M**y background is mostly Scottish and English, with some Scandinavian. I was born in New Zealand in a tiny town called Papanui, in Northland, in the north island of NZ. My mother is British-born and my father is of Scottish descent. My parents moved us to Auckland when I was five and that is where I grew up. I then moved to Sydney, Australia where I have lived most of my adult life. I currently reside in the famous Bondi Beach in Sydney, Australia.

As far back as I can remember I was interested in and good at art. It was an escape into another world for me, a form of meditation. I could create something from nothing and feel a sense of accomplishment. As well, I wanted to create beauty in my world, when sometimes in the 'real world,' things were not so beautiful. During high school my art teacher, whom I am very grateful for, encouraged me to take my art more seriously and

that I had the talent to go a long way.

I am driven to continue my work because I need to be creating, and whilst doing that, I can dive into other worlds, escaping the mundane or 'not so nice' things happening in the world. At the same time, I endeavour to bring something from a blank canvas - from nothing to fruition - and create something that is hopefully beautiful.

My art has evolved through the years. I think my earlier work was quite naive, both figuratively and metaphorically. I struggled a bit with the fact that I wanted to be a painter but also an illustrator. My work after the loss of my partner, especially, took on a deeper aspect, and so did some of the more whimsical and otherworldly artworks take on this aspect too. As well, different stages in one's life and experiences have brought about more maturity in my work.

One of the challenges is that it can be a very solitary vocation and you have to be

incredibly disciplined. The ups and downs of selling your work do not provide a 'regular' income, in comparison to a 9-5 type job. Staying on top of social media, and being able to self-promote - which I initially found went against my grain - has had me adjust and push myself out of my comfort zone, in order to be current and relevant to a broader audience.

I do get a sense of reward when I see my artwork hanging in people's homes all over the world, and again, when I see my artwork in publications, magazines, and reference books; and when I inspire others to create and follow their path. Selling paintings, or artwork, or being commissioned to paint illustrations is always an affirmation and a blessing. Being commissioned to paint portraits for clients, or fashion illustrations for both individual clients and publications, is also rewarding.

Some highlights in my career include being accepted into the prestigious Parsons