

# Jo Mells

## Artist Statement

Put Your Feet Up began with an acrylic study of an orange chair. When I rotated the image so the chair was lying on its back, ideas of rest and relaxation began to play in my mind, hence the choice of collaged drawings.

As I worked, I was contemplating Matthew Collings' ten principles of beauty: nature, simplicity, unity, transformation, the surroundings, animation, surprise, selection, spontaneity.

This work generated my award winning painting Catnap.



President's Award - Summer 2020  
Cat nap (Oil on canvas)

## Taranaki Series

Ko Taranaki te maunga e rū nei taku ngākau. Taranaki is the mountain that speaks to my heart. Ko Waiwhakaiho te awa e mahea taku wairua. Waiwhakaiho is the river that calms my spirit. Nō Taranaki ahau. I am from Taranaki.

My pēpehā was the starting point for these works. My initial intention with Picturing the Past was to use the river to connect the Taranaki landscape of my past with the Ohariu hills of my present, like a river of time.

On completing the acrylic study Taranaki – The Volcanic Land, I was reminded that Taranaki is still an active volcano. So the oil painting Taranaki – The Burning Land surfaced.

What we see today, however, is Taranaki – The Verdant Land. The lush pastures clothe the molten substratum. Surfaces seldom tell the full story.

Nō reira, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa.



# NZAFA Awards

