



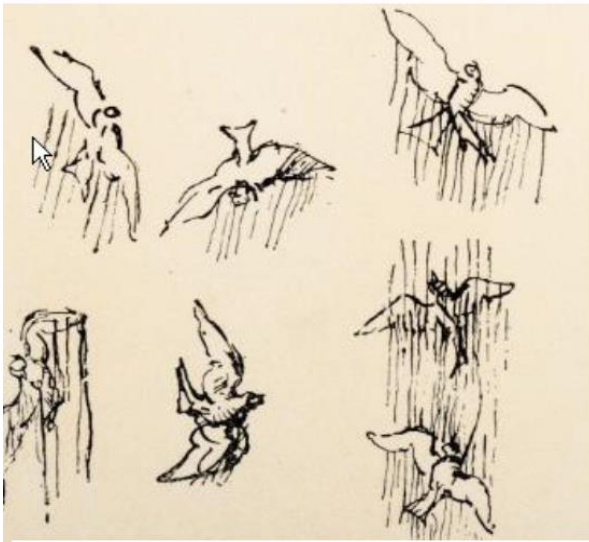
Birds have been represented in works of art throughout the world. Sometimes in representational images and sometimes totally imaginary.

What are your thoughts about the origins of these?

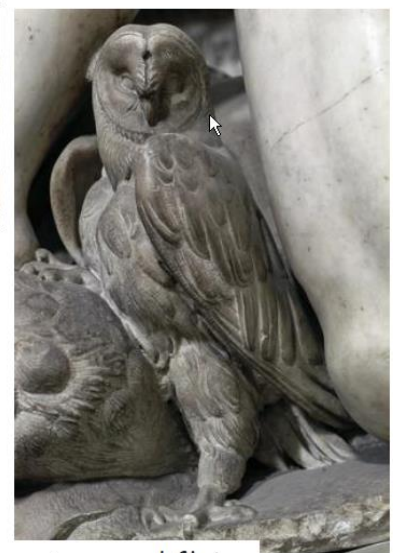


- Assyrian
- Aztec
- Chinese
- Egyptian
- Greek
- Inca
- Indian
- Maori
- Roman





Michelangelo did two marble sculptures of nude females, entitled "Night" and "Dawn". Night included a sculptured owl beneath her raised left knee.



Leonardo began to study bird flight when he was trying to develop human-powered flying machines. He paid particular attention to soaring birds in order to learn how they fly without flapping their wings. His manuscripts contain over 500 sketches of birds, bird flight and devices for human flight.



John James Audubon (1785-1851) was the young country's dominant wildlife artist. His "The Birds of America", a collection of 435 life-size prints.

Today the National Audubon Society protects birds and the places they need,

This is "Hawk Pouncing on Partridges", c.1827



Edward Lear (1812-1888) was already professionally drawing by the time he was aged 16 and soon developed into a serious "ornithological draughtsman" employed by the Zoological Society. He was the first major bird artist to draw birds from real live birds, instead of skins. Lear's first publication, published when he was 19 years old, was "Illustrations of the Family of Psittacidae, or Parrots" in 1830.

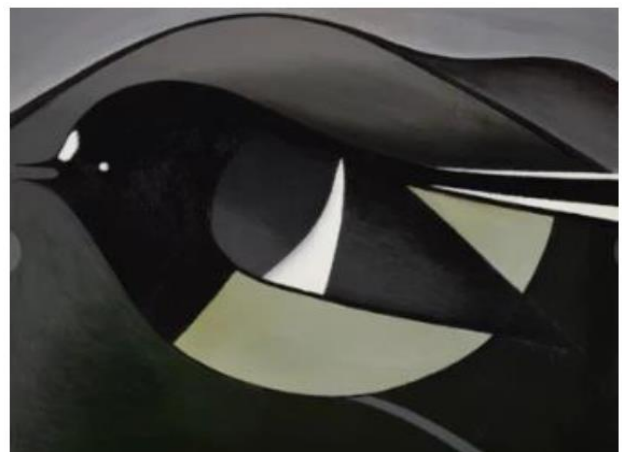




William T Cooper, (1934 -2015) once described by Sir David Attenborough as the best ornithological illustrator in the world. In 1993, the artist was the subject of Attenborough's TV documentary 'Portrait Painter to the Birds'.



Ray Ching is internationally recognised as one of the world's greatest living wildlife artists. Born in New Zealand, he established himself as an artist in the 1960s, before moving to England where he has spent the majority of his career. He has never lost his interest in his roots, however, or the New Zealand birds that inspired his move into art, and over the last 60 years, he has built up a remarkable collection of paintings of our wildlife.



Donald Hall Binney, OBE (24 March 1940 – 14 September 2012), was a New Zealand painter, best known for his paintings of birds. In birdwatching, Binney said he discovered a passage into the landscape and the opportunity to develop a personal relationship with it. Binney described himself as a figurative painter concerned with the psychic metaphor of the environment. Working in oil, acrylic, charcoal, ink and carbon pencil.

Bill Hammond (1947-2021) Best known for his magical, haunting bird paintings, his work has engaged deeply with Aotearoa's environmental and colonial history. In 1989 made trip made with a group of other artists to the Auckland Islands. Around 450 kilometres south of Aotearoa, these are wild and remote places. Hammond was deeply struck by being in an environment with no human habitation. He saw the islands as a kind of primeval landscape, one still owned by birds, like New Zealand before the arrival of people.



Sold at auction in August 2023 for just over \$1.7 million. *Melting Moments 1*, an acrylic on canvas work measuring roughly 1.6 x 2.1 metres, features Hammond's iconic bird people.

Returning to Christchurch, Hammond began to introduce these birds into his work. Elegant, elongated, and watchful, his bird creatures often have human bodies, with bird heads and wings. They are sometimes clothed, sometimes engaged in familiar, domestic activities. There is often a disturbing darkness to these scenes - laced with the threat of violence.

