

Our Cover Artist

Souzie Speerstra

Boats Under Paku



“Once again the sea is calling to me... Summer must be on the way.” We’ve heard this exclamation from PakuViews cover artist, Souzie Speerstra before, but this year the call was so strong, she and husband Lance have realised their dream by purchasing a 10ha property in Whenuakite (half way between Hahei and Hotwater beaches).

Souzie is beyond excitement. Her first experience of the Coromandel was when her parents fell in love with Hahei. Her mum was pregnant with her at the time. The family have been coming back ever since. Of Dutch heritage, but Kiwi born, Souzie revives the emotion and energy of a youthful New Zealand. Through the medium of lustrous acrylic paint on canvas, she translates this emotion and the icons that surround it, much like the scene on the cover.

“Here, in New Zealand, we have constant contact with the water and I find it an important feature of our way of life. I have an island mentality and love Kiwiana—the boat, the bach - the experience and thrill of being brought up here with the freedom and activities of a Kiwi youth.”

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“The cover art, “Boats Under Paku”, is the first I painted after joining The Little Gallery Of Fine Arts. It is a homage to the beautiful old blue black boat with gold trim that has been a constant in my images for over ten years”. – *Souzie Speerstra*

Souzie entered Auckland School of Art (ASA) at age 11, an environment encouraging confidence and technical ability for later artistic development. As a child she travelled throughout New Zealand gaining a strong appreciation and love of the country’s indigenous bush, forests, land and seascapes.

Souzie later travelled abroad to Europe where she was immediately enamored with the European artists, especially the “Blue Rider” movement and a collection of Russian and German artists including Kandinsky. For the last twelve years she has exhibited two styles, most recently introducing an angular abstraction reminiscent of these influences.

Colour is a major feature of Souzie’s artwork. Not only are the primary colours of New Zealand at the forefront, but the energy created by their juxtaposition is a critical feature. She creates illusions such as three-dimensionality, translucence and texture through the combinations and layering of these colours.

Souzie’s mediums include gouache, chalk, oil pastel and her favourite - Acrylic. The colour and texture of acrylic enables a wide scope in artistic expression. She continues to enrich our lives with her dramatic interpretative work that embodies the essence of New Zealand.

Souzie’s work can be viewed locally at The Little Gallery of Fine Arts in Tairua and Moko Gallery in Hot Water Beach.

**Contact Souzie at 03 816 9296 or 027 369 3607,
email souzieart@gmail.com or visit
www.souziespeerstra.co.nz.**

VIEW PAKU VIEWS ONLINE at pakuviews.co.nz or send the link to your families & friends to read. Find weather, tide charts, updated calendar events, maps and ferry schedules. All the stories and content of the printed version will be viewable online in a familiar “page turning” style.



Aerial view of Paku Mountain available on canvas

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