

artist statement

Te AWAHOU
COLLECTIVE

Past Used by Date

Past Used By Date is a contemporary painting exploring ageing, lifelong contribution and the uncertainty of retirement. It questions the point at which a society that measures people through productivity begins to regard a lifetime of experience as having passed its value.

The work occupies what I call the **Curious Zone** — a space between recognition and uncertainty. Historical, cultural and personal references overlap, collide and partially obscure one another. Familiar objects and figures are removed from their original contexts, transformed through intense colour and assembled into an image that resists a single reading. The viewer is invited to recognise fragments, make connections and construct meaning rather than being given a fixed narrative. The title *Past Used By Date* deliberately borrows the language of consumer culture. A “use-by date” belongs to a disposable commodity, not a human life. The alteration to **Past** introduces another question: when society looks toward its future, what happens to the people whose labour helped construct its past?

ARTWORK

Past Used by Date

One piece corner
240 x180 cm

Steve Leurink

Multidisciplinary Artist. Dip. Art & Creativity (Hons).

Steve Leurink is a multimedia visual artist whose creative identity has evolved through a lifetime of working across multiple creative practices. Drawing on this diverse experience, his work embraces experimentation, evolving concepts and the layering of multiple images to create visual storytelling.

Leurink is particularly interested in working within what he describes as the “curious zone” — the space between the obvious and the confusing. Familiar imagery is disrupted, repositioned and brought into unexpected relationships, encouraging the viewer to look beyond the immediate image and reconsider its meaning. Through this process, his work remains exploratory and open-ended, allowing ideas to evolve through the act of making.

Working together in one Spirit

Kotahi Tonu Wairua o Nga Mea Katoa

