



## A popup exhibition at the BG Artspace

### Shane Cotton – Contemporary New Zealand Artist

The BG Artspace will be hosting a month long popup exhibition of a selection from Shane Cotton's artworks throughout February. The doors will be open Monday – Friday between 10am-3pm and fellow art lovers are invited to drop in and enjoy these works.

Amongst the pieces being displayed, we will have the limited series of prints that Shane created during his residency at the BG Artspace back in December. The print press that was used will also be available for viewing and the prints are available for purchase. By showcasing these works in the same space in which they were created, visitors are given a multi sensory experience and we hope they enjoy this aspect of their visit.

Speaking of the artist's recent residency, Shane had expressed his excitement and spoke of his visit as, "A great opportunity to make work whilst immersed in an awe inspiring place and landscape".

For more information,  
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[www.bistrogentil.co.nz](http://www.bistrogentil.co.nz)

Bistro Gentil  
76a Golf Course Road  
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#### More about BG Artspace and Bistro Gentil

BG Artspace has previously hosted other notable New Zealand artists, including Flox and Michael Tuffery, as an inspirational space for them to create beautiful art in remote Wanaka.

Bistro Gentil also regularly hosts "An artist at the table" - an initiative by Wanaka arts patron and restaurant owner Luc Bohyn. It was started as Bistro Gentil has developed a reputation with art lovers, with a permanent collection that includes paintings by Shane Cotton, John Pule, Jerry Swaffield, as well as sculpture installations by Paul Dibble, Zadok Ben David, Zhu Wei and Rangi Kipa.

A further relationship has been established as we collaborate with artists on projects including:

- Fundraising wine charms with Rangi Kipa
- Collector wine olive oil duo with Shane Cotton and Grant Taylor (Valli Wines)

“An artist at the table” continues the French tradition of exchange between restaurateurs and artists. It aims to give artists a showcase space for their work outside of a traditional gallery set up, whilst promoting the creation of a deeper connection.

### More about Shane Cotton

Shane Cotton is prominent amongst a generation of Māori artists that emerged in the 1980s and 1990s who were schooled in contemporary Western art styles and have explored their Māori identity.

Using symbols and images referring to significant events and issues in New Zealand’s history, such as those related to land ownership and the preservation of Māori culture, his works of the 1990s played part in that decade’s debates about bicultural identity and the politics of appropriation on post – colonial New Zealand.

The imagery in his work, particularly from the mid 1990s onwards, draws on the interaction of Māori and Christian cosmology, particularly in the Northland (Nga Puhi tribe) region of New Zealand.

In the mid 2000’s, his perspective shifts from a concern with the land and its histories to the sky. Abandoning many of his trademark images, removing all reference to stable horizons and employing a nocturnal palette of blue and black, he opens up a new painted space evocative of a mythic spirit realm where birds speed and plummet.

His art features in many major collections and in 2008 he received an Arts Laureate Award from the New Zealand Arts Foundation and in 2012 he was made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit for his services to the visual arts.