



New Zealand Post  
**BOOK AWARDS**

children & young adults

**2009  
FINALISTS**



# NON FICTION



## **Back & Beyond: New Zealand Painting for the Young & Curious**

Gregory O'Brien

Auckland University Press

ISBN 978-1-86940-404-8, hb, RRP \$34.99

Target Age 8+

Kiwi, rugby players, angels and aunts, moa and mountains, the bush and the beaches all play starring roles in this bird's-eye view of New Zealand painting. This book is alive with many of the paintings that have, over the past few hundred years, broadened the horizons of citizens, young and old, of our shaky island nation.



Gregory O'Brien is a multi-award-winning author and editor with collections of poetry, fiction, books on New Zealand art and artists and many essays to his credit. *Back and Beyond* is the companion volume to *Welcome to the South Seas: Contemporary New Zealand Art for Young People* (AUP, 2004), which won the 2005 Elsie Locke Award and the Non-fiction Category of the 2005 New Zealand Post Book Awards.

Gregory migrated south to Wellington in 1990, where he lives with his partner, poet Jenny Bornholdt, and works as a senior curator with Wellington's City Gallery. He has three sons.

### Great Activity and Event Ideas...

1. Visit a gallery in your local area and look at a selection of the artwork. As you look at the artwork can you identify any of the characteristics or influences that Greg O'Brien discusses in his book eg myths and legends, the unique New Zealand landscape, historical references. Can you find any artwork by artists mentioned in the book?
2. Invite a local artist to talk to you about his/her work. Find out what has influenced their work.
3. Choose a theme from the book eg New Zealand landscape and hold an art competition.
4. On page 67, Gregory O'Brien shows us how artist Frances Hodgkins has painted a collection of things precious to her to create a self portrait. If you were to create your own self portrait, what precious objects would you choose? Make a list and have a go at creating your own self portrait.
5. Choose one of the artists from *Back @ Beyond. New Zealand Painting for the Young and Curious* that you really like. Use your library to find out more about the artist and share your information with the class.



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## Activity

Choose one of the areas discussed by Gregory O'Brien in *Back @ Beyond: New Zealand Painting for the Young and Curious*. Create your own painting or collage to exhibit in a class exhibition.

