



ISAAC WESTON

Medium: Copper wall and garden art.

How did you become an artist? As a travel agent for 17 years, I always dabbled in creative projects on the side. One day, I decided to take the leap and quit my job to give art my full attention. That was five years ago and I have no regrets. I began selling at local and regional markets under the name Re.Work.It. My art was soon stocked by local galleries and I'm represented throughout the North Island in galleries and garden centres. Now I have my own gallery next to my wife Lara's Cool Plants showroom at our home in Matua. I am proud of the art I create and the decision I made to make art my life.

What is your current collection about? I'm loving developing my range of copper art circles and art panels. They feature vivid patinas of green, blue and gold, and my design and processing methods ensure no two artworks are the same. This year has been a year of highlights for me. Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern owns a few pairs of my handmade copper and patina earrings and has worn them to multiple events. One of my large copper art circles featured in the winning living room in *The Block NZ*. In May, I completed a sculpture installation at Te Puna Quarry with support from Creative Bay of Plenty. The sculpture comprises five columns made of railway sleepers and copper, and I hope the community will enjoy it for many years to come.

How important is it to have a good community of artists around you? The support of Creative BOP and the community of talented artists we have here in the Bay is invaluable to me. The online creative directory is brilliant at raising my profile across New Zealand. Events held by Creative BOP and The Incubator enable me to meet others within the arts community, allowing us to share knowledge and celebrate our creative wins collectively.

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