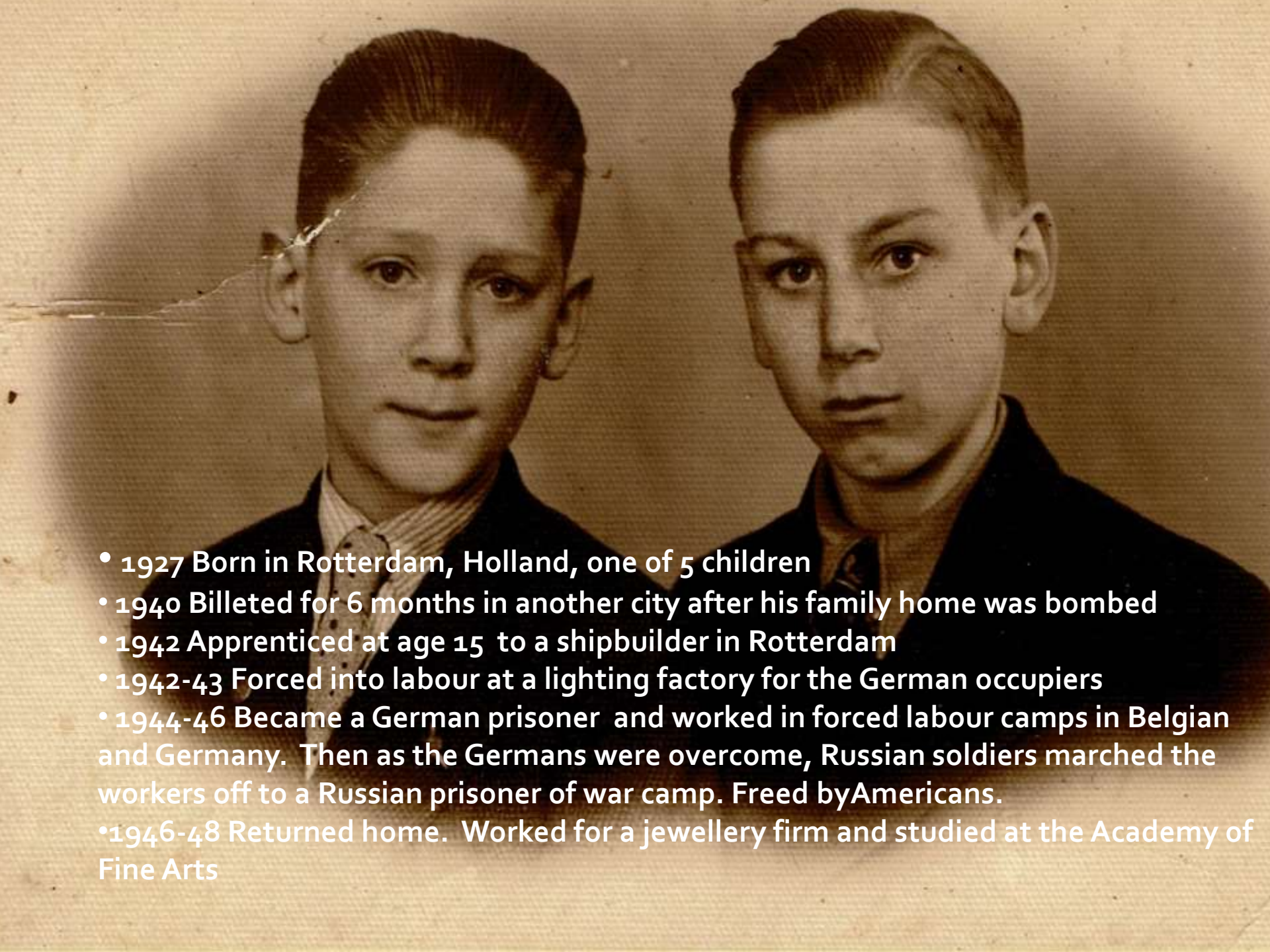


BEETHOVEN IN THE FAMILY CAR

The Fantasy World of Peter Sauerbier
1927-2006





- 1927 Born in Rotterdam, Holland, one of 5 children
- 1940 Billeted for 6 months in another city after his family home was bombed
- 1942 Apprenticed at age 15 to a shipbuilder in Rotterdam
- 1942-43 Forced into labour at a lighting factory for the German occupiers
- 1944-46 Became a German prisoner and worked in forced labour camps in Belgian and Germany. Then as the Germans were overcome, Russian soldiers marched the workers off to a Russian prisoner of war camp. Freed by Americans.
- 1946-48 Returned home. Worked for a jewellery firm and studied at the Academy of Fine Arts

Peter's Early Life

My Forgotten Tabernacle

"As a boy, my idea of heaven was to roam through the piles of other people's cast offs at the markets and on the street, returning home with pockets bulging with 'rubbish'.



Almost Functional

Materials:

Brass Jardinière (approx 100 year old);
Top: Cast Iron Door Knobs;
Legs and Top: Part of Edwardian Lamp;
Hanging: Lid from Lamp Fittings;
Victorian Kerosene Lamp;
Pewter Coffee Pot Spouts;
Gas Pipe Tubing



In his Twenties...



1948-50 - Peter was drafted into the military as an engineer and sent under the Dutch Colonial Forces to the Indonesian War of Independence. He was wounded in the jaw by grenade shrapnel.

late 1949 - Peter was sent back to Holland, and in 1951 emigrated to New Zealand with his fiancée Corry Van Oostveen to start a new life.

1951-53 When he first arrived in Auckland, Peter worked for the Post and Telegraph department, servicing telephone lines, and later he worked at the Remuera telephone exchange.

1952-53 Married Corry and built a house at a Glen Eden property

1952-56 A creative era for Peter, he experimented with filigree and wire sculpture, painting, modelling and steel and wrought iron furniture and balustrades

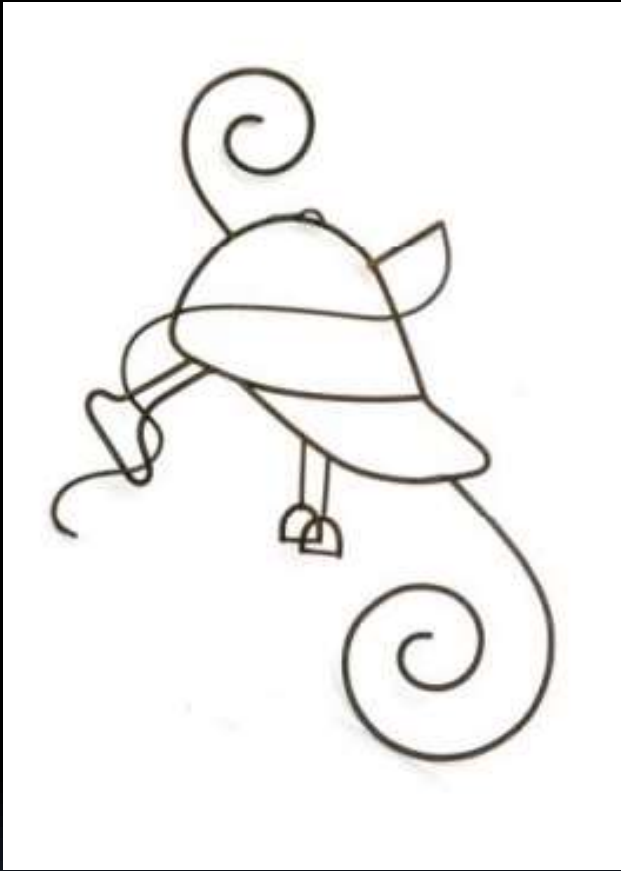


Kristus



Sisters

From Peter's Apostle series of paintings from 1954-58



In 1956 Peter established a company Scrollo Ltd making domestic and ornamental items out of No. 8 steel wire. This business was very successful, and ran for over three years.

In his Thirties and beyond ...

- 1960s – Contracted by Catholic Supplies Ltd to produce chattels and fixtures for churches
- Raised 5 children, 1 son and 4 daughters
- 1961-87 – Designed fittings for the El Matador restaurant and others





Copper, Paint and Resin Works



In his Fifties to Seventies

1978 – Bought a house in Massey, West Auckland

1980s – Focussed on his bird sculptures and other found object sculpture

Flights of Fancy



Materials

Feet/Legs: Gas Light Piping; Body: Turkish Coffee Pot; Head: Jewellery, Kerosene Burner, Ornament from Lamp; Tail: Art Nouveau Gas Lamp.



Materials

Chandelier (lower), Ornament from Kerosene Lamps, Woman's Dress Belt; Tail Feathers: Plastic/Celluloid Composite Hair Comb; Tail: Brass Curtain Bracket (Victorian); Legs: Part of Metal Strapping Machine; Feet: Parts of Indian Candelabra; Head: Weight and Handle for Kerosene Lamp, Knob from a Pocket Watch, Jewellery Parts.



Throughout the 1980s Sauerbier enjoyed making bird sculptures out of found objects

My Heron

Materials

Chandelier (lower), Ornament from Kerosene Lamps, Woman's Dress Belt;
Tail Feathers: Plastic/Celluloid
Composite Hair Comb;
Tail: Brass Curtain Bracket (Victorian);
Legs: Part of Metal Strapping Machine;
Feet: Parts of Indian Candelabra;
Head: Weight and Handle for Kerosene Lamp, Knob from a Pocket Watch, Jewellery Parts.



Pukeko Pedal Car

Materials :
Constructed Sheet
Metal Offcuts,
Eyes: Door knobs
Wheels & Steering
Wheels: Clutch Plates
Claws: Reinforced Steel
and Welded Washers
The wings and beak
are kinetic





Yomet

Materials

Horns from Indonesia; Eyes: Part of Light Fitting; Nose: Part of Urinal; Boat Nails

Comba



Materials

Pukeko Beak; Mouth: Light Fitting; Nose: Wooden Queen Anne Furniture Leg; Ears: Teapot Handles; Eyes: Light Fittings, Eyes from Toy Bear; Wooden Fruit Tray Base; Steel Birds Head.



Werp/Pukeko

Materials

Face: Fruit Bowl; Eyebrows: Violin Scroll; P/O Nose: Violin Fingerboard; Eyes: Chandelier Parts; Nose/Mouth: Light Fittings; Chin: P/O Old Watch Stand; Green Leather; Silver Nails; Ornamental Part Under Nose: Part of Leather Book Cover.

Cuba Street Beauty

Materials :

Wood;
Brass Ball
Bearing;
Jewellery Casing;
Kerosene Lamp;
Found Objects.



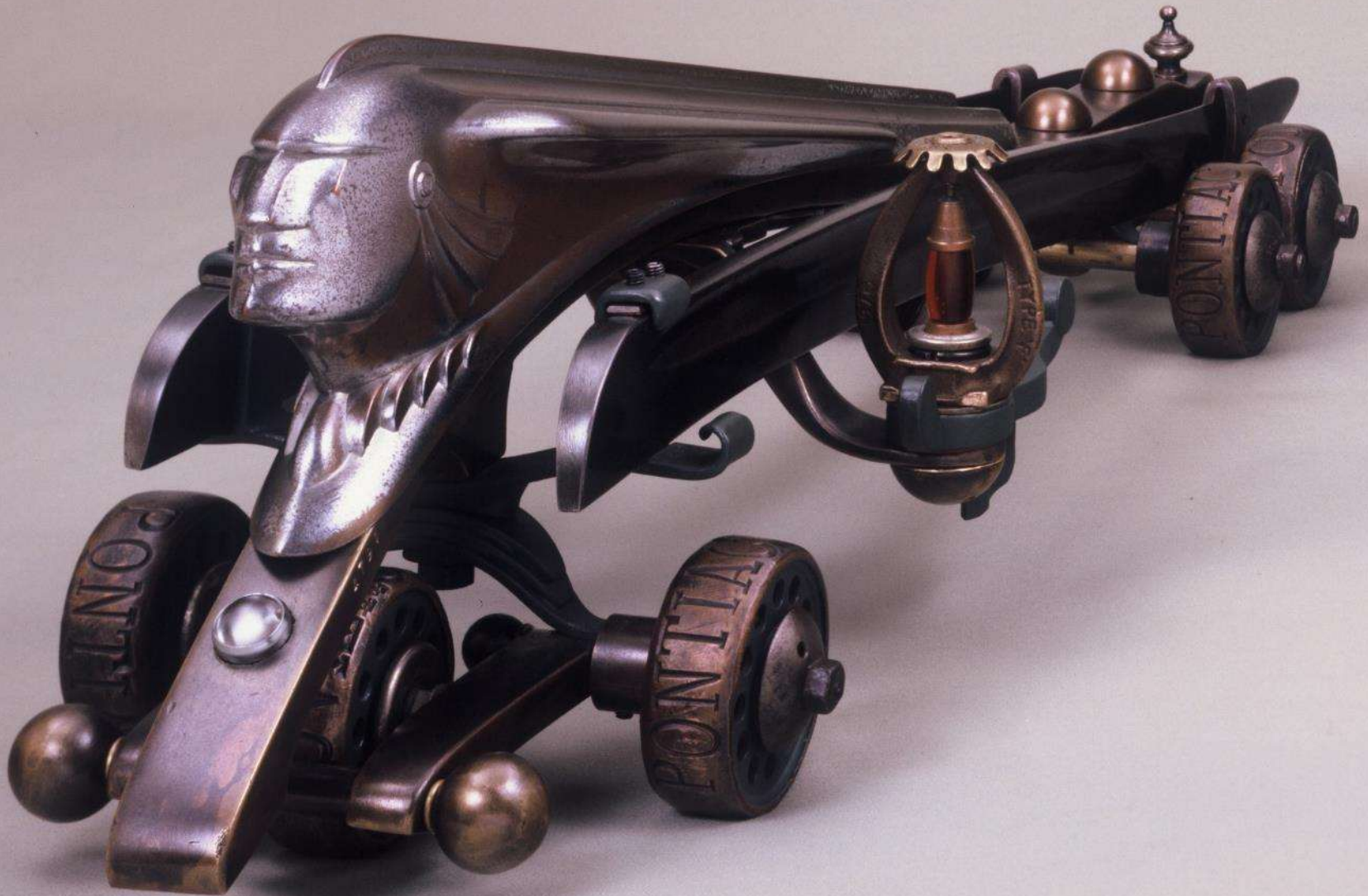
General Rodger



Pontiac Racer

Materials:

Mascot from a 1947 Motor Car; Fire Sprinklers; Wheels from Early Roller Skates (early 1900's); Two French Bayonets; Body: Two Car Door Handles.





Aotea Centre
Commemorative Key 1990



Pistol/Dagger

Materials

Body: Wine Barrel Tap from Corbans Wines;
Handle: Part of a Teapot Spout; Gun Parts;
Indonesian Spear; Bloodstone.

Suicide Pistol



Materials

First World War Pistol; Italian Clock Part;
Perspex; Pistol Grip: Sperm Whale Tooth Cut
in Half.

Peter's propensity to incorporate old weapons such as shotguns and bayonets is his way of illustrating the futility of war.

Corry sadly passed away in 2003, before Peter held his "Precious Past" 2004 exhibition at Corban Estate Arts Centre.

Before he died of cancer, age 79 in 2006, Peter gifted his collection of over 100 works worth close to a million dollars to the Waitakere City Council.

His last creation, a sculptured key to open the new civic centre in Henderson was also donated to the council in September 2006.



Sean Kerrigan's tribute to Peter Sauerbier, painted in the year of his death

The Peter Sauerbier collection is in Auckland council storage. His wish was for the collection to be displayed at Corban's Arts Estate.

In 2009 Peter's family were frustrated that plans to upgrade and extend the arts centre were in limbo, and might not happen for another 10 years.

Council had at this time started a proposal for a 3 year tour of the artworks around the country.

The Auckland Council Art Collection Services Manager Peter Tilley has indicated that there are plans in the wind for the collection.

Beethoven in the Family Car

Materials:

Viola Case; Bust and Arms; Plastic Composite; Ebony and Ivory Piano Keys; Trumpet Mouth Piece and Button; Side: Flute Pieces; Remote Control Car Body; Brass Light Fittings; Mirror from a Saxophone; Valve Handles.

This Piece is Kinetic.

