THE ARTIFICIAL SHORE

Media Kit

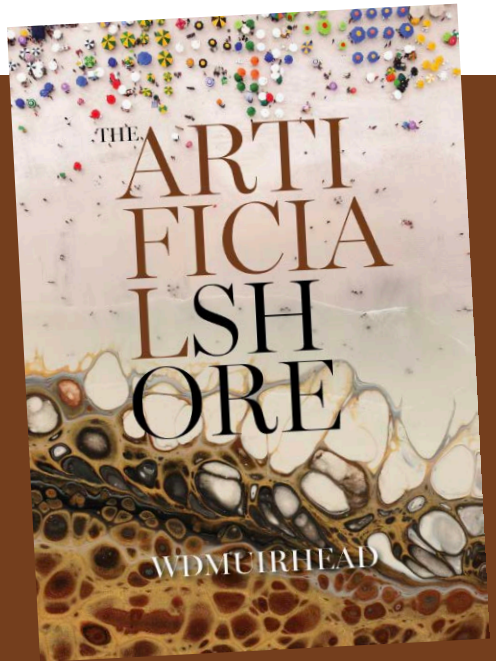
The author

The eldest child of two English lecturers, W. D. Muirhead grew up surrounded by books and one of his proudest achievements remains finishing Roald Dahl's *The Twits* in a single night at the age of six. He has spent most of his life in the Manawatū, much of it furiously writing for a range of media and in forms extending from journalism to poetry and stage plays to book-length local histories. (Plus one self-published novel accurately described by his father as "like something written by a very strange genius twelve-year-old.") A relative newcomer to the world of short stories, *The Artificial Shore* is a kaleidoscopic distillation of his obsessions, experiences and observations on that silly little species called humanity.



The book

Swinging from the satirical to the surreal, the sweet to the sardonic, the seventeen stories collected in *The Artificial Shore* are a series of short films for the page. Set predominantly in contemporary New Zealand, these warped and sometimes wicked vignettes run the gamut from love stories to dystopian sci-fi, social satires to tales of the supernatural. Even when the genres are familiar, however, Manawatū-born author W. D. Muirhead ensures the reader will never be quite sure where he's taking them next...



Categories & keywords

New Zealand Fiction, New Zealand Surrealism, Environmental Writing, Religious Satire, Short Stories, Kiwi Dystopia, Kiwi sci-fi, Literary Scatology, Kiwi Horror, Manawatū Fiction

All assets and images available at:
www.firestarter.nz/the-articifial-shore

Cont'd overleaf...

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The Illustrator



James Cross, the book's illustrator, was raised in Bulls with and by kebabs. At the age of 15 he lost his taste for tahini and ran away to join a travelling polytechnic. Approaching the end of his one year design course, five years later, he met W. D. Muirhead at a local tavern and the rest, as they say, is beers. An artist of atypical insight and prodigious skill, it is assumed at time of writing he will one day complete the illustrations he has already been paid for. James now resides in Melbourne, Australia, where he enjoys beers, writing long social media posts about beers, and beers.



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www.firestarter.nz

Publishing details

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200 Pages
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Blurb

"What can you say about what happened, except it was exactly what everyone said was going to happen? The oceans rose and the winds roared and the bees curled up into small soft mementos of all those decades during which we might have done something but didn't...



Which is why I decided to go find the last surviving polar bear and dare it to fight me."

Meet Poko, the last polar bear in the world, surviving after the "General Collapse" on a largely penguin-based diet. Or Ritchie, voluntarily hanging from a meat hook in a butchery freezer. And Mollie and Dan, running a very strange scam on hotels throughout the upper North Island.

Then there's Claire, whose unconventional new life partner proves a source of concern to her friends and family. And John and Luke (yes, the ones from the Bible), who think they have a couple of millennia worth of lost publishing royalties headed their way...

"Muirhead's writing has wit, it has wisdom, it has LIFE!"

Helen Lehndorf

"What the hell have we unleashed?!"

Firestarter Press

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