

## **ARTIST STATEMENT BY GERALD FITZPATRICK**

Take a walk into my galley. It's a metal comic book which I call The New World. Filled with characters in uniform, mask heads, exotic vegetation and trees. This world is sparked by my drive to explore, learn and share first hand. As a kid I was more interested in the hourly wage of washing dishes to earn enough for my next trip. Fast forward from college, welding school, shipyards, Peace Corps, waiter, boilermaker, deckhand, overseas technician, prosthetic school, rehab hospital and finally a job I could sink my teeth into. Working for the International Red Cross fitting artificial limbs in conflict areas. Eighteen years later forced retirement. On a whim I enrolled in an African Metal Mask Making workshop at the local maker's space. Maker's space, what a fantastic concept which I quickly took advantage of. Plenty of artist workshops where instructors were willing to show their processes. A confidence builder it was. Fast forward again. I now have my own workshop where I fabricate my metal and leather art.

The stuff I create is a mix of past travel experiences, a new sourced material, a new fabricating skill learned and a realized hidden insight stirred into something that was not foreseen. The takeaway is that I want my audience to experience my metal comic book firsthand and be able to share the process of how my art was created.