

In the Galleries

Contributed

Art galleries are scattered all over our wonderful country, hosting and promoting the works of Australia's diverse exponents of art. On the pages of Artist's Palette magazine we will showcase a range of these important venues.

MURRAY CHARTERIS ART GALLERY



Bay Art and Design has recently opened the 'Murray Charteris Art Gallery' in Hervey Bay, Queensland, showcasing the brilliant work of Murray Charteris along with some more of Hervey Bay's finest artists. The community of Hervey Bay is very excited about what the gallery has to offer.

According to many local artists, 'This is what Hervey Bay has been waiting for'! The gallery has a room set aside for artists to exhibit their own work, along with a working studio for art lessons and an art materials store.

Gallery owner and artist Murray Charteris has spent the last decade as

Head of Graphics at Channel Nine in Brisbane and has recently made his sea change to Hervey Bay to realise his dream of becoming a full-time artist.

"I'm really excited to have this opportunity," he says. "This is a turning point in my life."

Murray is quickly gaining a reputation in the art community for his



The Emerging

dynamic, energy-filled fine art. His bold colours and powerful compositions come together to produce artwork that is increasingly sought after.

Murray started painting at a very early age and during his childhood was tutored by several Brisbane artists. After studying animation for three years at Queensland College of Art in Brisbane, Murray forged a successful career from his animation skills – creating 3D computer animation and special effects for television commercials and programs both in Australia and overseas.

Spending a year in Papua New Guinea was one of the highlights of Murray's artistic development.

"Experiencing the different culture and artwork in New Guinea opened my eyes to experimenting with different techniques, and the landscape was so beautiful."

On his return to Australia, Murray started work with Australia's leading television network Channel Nine, where he quickly gained a reputation for his design. He was placed in charge of the Videographics

department in Brisbane in 1997 and led the department for ten years. During that time, he won a Gold World Medal in the New York Festivals and twice became a finalist in the Australian Effects and Animation Festival. His design work has been seen splashed across our television sets for more than a decade. Murray's real passion has always been drawing and painting. In 2007, he relocated to Hervey Bay and has devoted his time to his art; now working as a full-time artist.

"Painting is what I really love to do," he explains. "I love to create new worlds that could only have once existed in my imagination. I like to create a feeling of energy and motion into my art."

Murray Charteris is extremely versatile as an artist, working in most mediums. He can adapt his style from realism to cartooning. His caricatures are becoming very popular with Hervey Bay locals.

Being an artist in Hervey Bay has long been a dream goal for Murray. The oceanfront location was a favourite holiday destination for



The Storm



Double Trouble



Glider of the Sea



Curious

his wife Kathryn and their three sons. “We have always wanted to live here ... it is just such a beautiful place for an artist, full of inspiring scenery with unspoilt beaches and Fraser Island on our doorstep,” he says. “With the population of Hervey Bay currently booming, at over 56,000 people, it was just the right time to move here.”

It was immediately apparent that, despite there being hundreds of artists in the Bay, there were very few options for them to locally sell or exhibit their work.

“Initially, the Gallery was set up as a space to exhibit and sell my own work, but it soon became clear that most other artists in Hervey Bay wanted the same thing,” Murray explains. “The gallery now has its own exhibition room that artists can hire to display their work. Selected works are also for sale in the main gallery, with over a dozen artists’ work currently on display ... most of them are locals in the Bay.”

“There are many talented artists in the region and I am excited about giving them an opportunity to prosper as artists,” he continues. “I am hoping to bring recognition to the Hervey Bay art community.”

Artists currently exhibiting in the gallery include watercolourist Brian Harris; Paul Petterson; Kenneth Brown; Neta Alcorn; Judy Lamont; Daniela Caravella; and master glassblower Wolfgang Engel.

Visitors can watch artists at work in the gallery’s built-in functioning studio; or they can participate in the art classes that will be conducted there. Murray is conducting lessons for beginners right through to workshops for experienced artists. The gallery will be offering tuition after school for children interested in developing their art abilities.

“We are committed to encouraging young artists to enhance their artistic skills; to be confident to experiment with different techniques,” says

Murray. “We would like to see them entering competitions and exhibiting their work to lift their confidence and self esteem – and enable them to become accomplished artists.”

The Murray Charteris Art Gallery is something new for Hervey Bay. The positiveness coming from local artists visiting and exhibiting in the gallery has been phenomenal. A beautiful interior appearance combined with fantastic artwork is making it a ‘must see’ location for visiting tourists.

“Tourists want to take home a part of Hervey Bay, and buying an original piece of local art is a great way for them to do that,” Murray claims.

The gallery is open most days from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm. It is situated opposite the pier at Urangan. The telephone number is 07 4125 1177.



Playtime

ARTHOUSE ARTISANS AT YAMBA



The opening



From 7 January to 15 March 2008, Arthouse Australia Gallery is hosting a special exhibition in its premises at 25 Coldstream Street, Yamba. The town of Yamba is on the north coast of New South Wales.

Creativity and inspiration abound at the new exhibition at Arthouse Australia. Over 20 artists are involved, with each portraying a very different approach to art. Together the art works showcase a diversity of subject matter, techniques and concepts.

The artists have created works that are based on simple designs found in life, as well as intricate abstractions and beautiful landscapes and beachscapes. All works have combined beautifully to create an exhibition offering something for everyone.

Artist John Beeman has created a number of paintings for this exhibition. John's traditional technique with oils, his observational skills and his dedication are evident. His ability to capture a sense of movement combined with simplicity of subject matter makes his art intriguing and inspiring.

David Stewart, Roger Warsop and Christine Denham Kempnich have a passion for Nature and landscapes. Each artist uses different mediums and techniques – capturing different subtleties, details and moments within their works.

The art displayed will entice viewers to look closely and investigate the detail and techniques. Exhibition curator Melinda Gibbs selected the range of art to appeal to a wide audience.



Sunrise



View to Mara Creek

"I looked carefully at the artworks, the techniques, the media, quality and the subject matter ... making sure that the diverse range of work displayed would appeal to all art tastes," she explained.

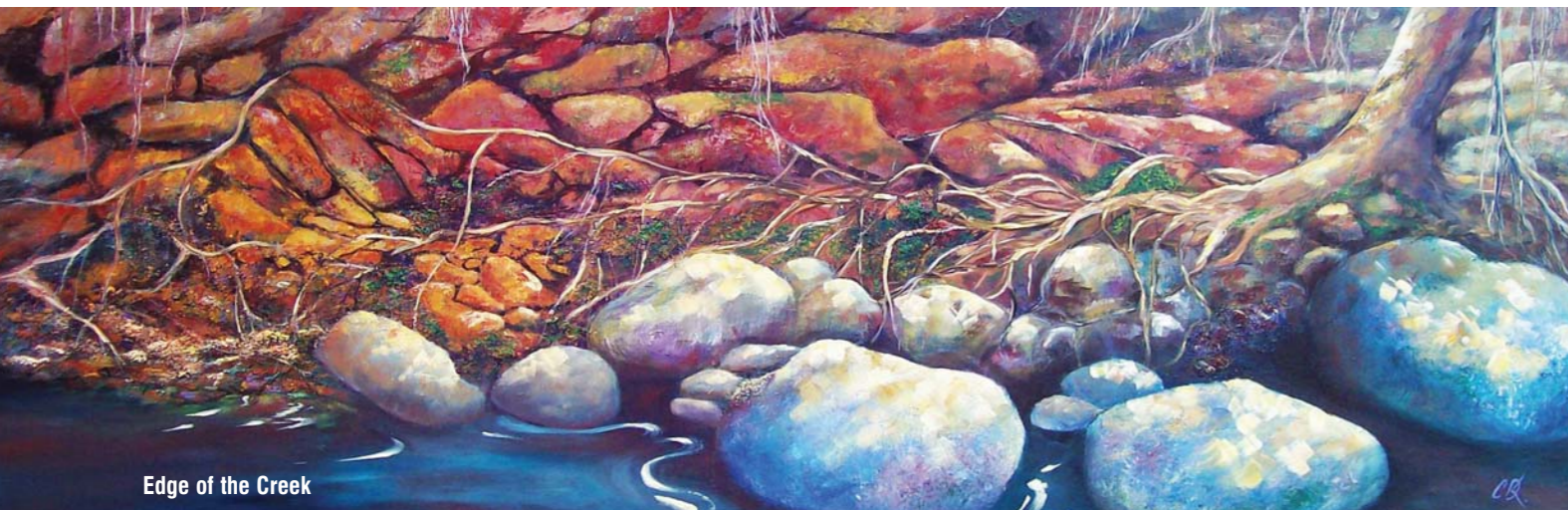
A creative visit to Arthouse Australia could inspire you to buy a creative gift – or even purchase the art materials to create something significant. Prices for original artworks range from \$75 to \$25,000.

Arthouse Artisans group exhibition at the Arthouse Australia Gallery is open from 9.30 am to 5.00 pm Monday to Friday; 10.00 am to 2.00 pm Saturday; or by appointment. The gallery has a website at www.arthouseaustralia.com

For further details, telephone Melinda Gibbs on 02 6646 1999. ■



Art talk



Edge of the Creek