

ARTS | and galleries

Opening One's Eyes to the New

There is a growing consensus in academic and connoisseur art circles that the viewing audience has been given too much input into what artists produce, what the nature of art is, and the importance of which cultural icons are relevant in evaluating contemporary art.

Frankston art dealer **JENNY PIHAN** is candidly vocal with regard to the role of art galleries in educating the viewing public in appreciation and understanding of visual art in the context that painting, and its associated parallel disciplines, is at its ground a purely visual language which can be studied and learned, then used, improved and passed on just like the written alphabet language.

"I think it is time those in the art industry actively passed on their objective wisdom and encouraged the public to open their eyes and willingly to look differently...just as master artists have over the centuries," she says.

"Certainly it is a challenge for any viewer to shift from the relatively safe place of 'I know what I like' - especially when it comes to expanding personal long held realist tastes into the modern tradition.

"Often clients don't have the confidence to move from the representational work which they find comfortable...part of our job is to assist in building a client's confidence to at least give something

unusual and out of the ordinary a try. Not being in a hurry to just fill an empty spot on the wall is the key."

She is quick to point out that while Jenny Pihan Fine Art's job is to match a client artistic needs, decorative or otherwise, the gallery also has a duty to inform interested parties of other possible developing trends and breakthroughs in painting, as well as consolidating with information the technical reasons why a particular artist enjoys his/her reputation.

"For the client with the more conservative eye we encourage them to trust our judgment and explore the visual world of painting pictures a little more and embrace the new - and to realize that one has nothing to lose by expanding ones familiar tastes into the unfamiliar...and it is well worth the trip," Jenny explains.

"We are here to help the public train their eye beyond the obvious and develop more of an aesthetic approach rather than just wanting a piece which 'matches the carpet', as the very real cliché goes."

The scheduled August exhibition "Two artists - One space" featuring the contrasting works of inventive figurative realist

@ GLEN EIRA CITY COUNCIL GALLERY Michael Berry 28th Aug to 9th Sept Half Gallery. His up-tempo surrealist abstractions explore spatial illusion in a cacophony of colour cadences, multilayered dimensions, looping calligraphic line and shifting forms, & the logic of the purely visual.



Fu Hong and up-tempo surrealist abstractionist Michael Berry, is the perfect example of a showing which is targeted for audiences with conservative tastes through to those with a more avant garde sensibility.

"It is a fascinating exercise to study the works of Hong and Berry side by side, to willingly submit to each artists particular journey and to become fully aware of the contrasts, concurrences and the innovation of both artists equally within their own particular oeuvre...and in the bigger international sense," Jenny says.

"With this show in particular if you are after pretty pictures then it is not for you...just come with a clear mind when viewing artists like Hong and Berry and be aware that understanding their works doesn't just happen...rather it takes time to appreciate their painterly intelligence."

"The difference in understanding a quality painter, especially when they are working outside accepted limits, is that it often requires time to be around their work - and then something just clicks. And the new then becomes exciting to embrace."

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Jenny Pihan Fine Art



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DAVID TAYLOR 17th - 26th August
VENUE: Frankston Gallery
368 Nepean Highway Frankston.

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