



FINISHING TOUCHES: Don Milner with some of his paintings for his exhibition Making Light of Paint, exhibition by Don Milner Making Light of Paint (from left) Classical Blush, Lighting Up the Waves, Katie and Lazy Stream.

Picture: CONTRIBUTED

Artist makes light of paint

By JENNY GERSEKOWSKI

FOR professional artist Don Milner, his new exhibition of recent paintings at the Rosalie Gallery, is a walk down memory lane.

Don is putting the final touches to his exhibition Making Light of Paint, which will be showing at the gallery, Mocatta St, Goombungee from April 27 to May 27.

"That exhibition for me was like a walk down memory lane, as it showcased many of the steps I had taken as an artist, from tentative fledgling discoveries in art to full time practising professional artist," he said.

This new exhibition, a follow-up to Don's highly successful retrospective exhibition The Journey – back to the future held at Rosalie Gallery in mid 2010, showcases a selection of his recent paintings and promises to be a visual feast of delicious new offerings spanning subjects and genres of portrait, landscape, seascape and still life.

Don's paintings are eagerly sought after by discerning art buyers and many commissioned works are produced in his popular themes.

"I'm very excited about this exhibition because it will be my first major exhibition since my retrospective," Don said.

"I've been exploring new ways to see, express and capture 'the light'.

"It's paramount to every painting or image I look at and how it illuminates the subject, models, shapes and how shadows are being cast. All this is

part of our every-day life but only when we really look can we appreciate and see just how our world is lit and shaped in every way by light and how it defines everything about the subjects I paint and the stories they have to tell."

Don has recently drawn inspiration from master painters causing him to look at his world in a new light and question how he can express through paint in new and different ways.

American artist Clinton Hobart, master painter of the still life and portrait genres, showed Don that there is so much more to a humble still life.

In Don's painting Seeking Acceptance he tells the story of a sugar plum, similar looking to a fig, striving to be accepted into the fig group of four that are too busy to notice or care about the sugar plum's yearnings.

Clinton Hobart also showed him that the choice of subject such as the humble fig or pear can take on almost human characteristics, and as such, tell a story which we can all relate to.

International artist Fu Hong who now lives in Australia showed Don more about light and how artists need to push boundaries and bend the normal to reveal fresh ways of seeing.

All of Don's paintings are very much dependant on "the light" and how it tells a lot of the story and defines everything about the subject and what is contained within his paintings, from the dramatic light passing through waves after a storm at sea as in his painting Lighting up the Waves to Lazy Stream where the morning light

NEW EXHIBITION

WHAT: Making Light of Paint, exhibition by Don Milner

WHERE: Rosalie Gallery, Mocatta St, Goombungee from April 27 to May 27.

OFFICIAL OPENING: Sunday, April 29, from 3pm.

GALLERY HOURS: 10.30am to 3.30pm, Wednesday to Sunday. Phone the gallery on 4696 5600 for more information.



My day is never complete unless I paint or sketch something.

—Don Milner

floods across the lazy stream as a vibrant blue sky reflects in front of distant misty mountains.

In Classical Blush, flooding side light colours each pear creating strong shadows and light from an open window illuminates and fills the room in his Katie painting.

Don has won numerous awards with his work including a scholarship with the Brisbane Artists Academe. His acrylic painting on canvas, Gypsy Boy won Best Painting in the Open section Professional/Advanced category. Don used the prize to attend workshops to develop his portraiture painting.

"My day is never complete unless I paint or sketch something," Don said.

"I also try to inspire this love of painting in others through my ongoing commitment to sharing my knowledge with a full schedule of painting workshops in Australia and in New Zealand."

Don has tutored at three USQ winter schools. Dynamic Light is the theme for his winter school class this year.

An official opening to meet the artist will be held on Sunday, April 29, from 3pm with champagne and finger food.

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