

Elegance - 2014 - acrylic on board. 0000 x 0000mm.



Freedom & Movement

There is a lot of paint and colour, lots of colour. Bright, vibrant and even startling. And movement, always movement, large bold images leap out demanding attention captured but seemingly not, on the cusp of rising and falling but nowhere near frozen.



There are paintings all over the place when entering a very cluttered Tahuna Studios in Nelson. Some are complete, others still in that moment of creation. New and old it is an eclectic mix. Added to this are posters, surfboards, skateboards, and all manner of tools.

It is a beautiful Sunday morning when The New Zealand Artist Magazine meets up with Geoff Noble at his studio in Nelson. There is an added sparkle to the meeting as Geoff reflects on his being awarded the Lisa Grennell 'Top of the South Award' award at the Impression Art Awards the previous Friday for his work 'Astrid'.

Surfer, handyman, technician and builder are all part of Geoff's daily life.

Then there is Geoff the artist. Geoff is fortunate to have been pretty much involved in art in one way or another his entire life. He started painting in high school and, recognising his talents, an art teacher took him under his wing and guided him through high school introducing him to a lot of different art and art shows along the way.

Geoff went to study art at Dunedin. It didn't work, He was a surfing artist, not a student artist. So he travelled around, working odd jobs to fund his addiction to art and surfing. He eventually settled in Lyttelton where he met up with and worked with a number of well-known artists. It was, Geoff says, his real first taste of the professional art world.

"It was a very important period for me," Geoff says, adding that it was during this time he learnt the secret of developing a strong work ethic, which sustains him to this day. Many are the nights that, once the family has settled down for the evening, Geoff will work through until midnight and beyond to finish a project.

"Another thing I learnt," Geoff continues, "was to always be true to yourself and your art. Do your own thing I was told. Focus on developing your voice and the viewers will find you"

From Lyttelton, Geoff moved to Christchurch and then Karamea which is where he met his wife and started a family and also held his first solo exhibition at Left Bank Art Gallery in Greymouth.

Nelson

Six years later Geoff and family moved to Nelson where he took a job boat building.

Things started opening up after this. He worked in the art department with the World of WearableArt and later as a workshop technician at Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology. "It was great. I was surrounded by and working with art every day and getting paid for it," he says.

Five years later Geoff established Tahuna Studios to pursue his fine art while providing an artist support service to provide technical support in all areas of the creative process from 2D to 3D, welding, painting, wood fibreglass, and anything else artists need a hand with. Geoff prides himself on his ability to produce by hand what many modern commercial artists do on a computer.

Geoff also does one-off commissions with props, murals, gallery assistance he also manufactures boutique skateboards and restores vintage surfboards. Looking among the paintings displayed around his studio Geoff points out his first ever skate and surfboards. Nice touch Geoff.

Passion

Getting back to the art. "Art is alive, it moves, it is exciting," Geoff enthuses, "you have to drive yourself to take chances to make it happen but that's the exciting part and it gives me total freedom to be myself."

The New Zealand Artist Magazine

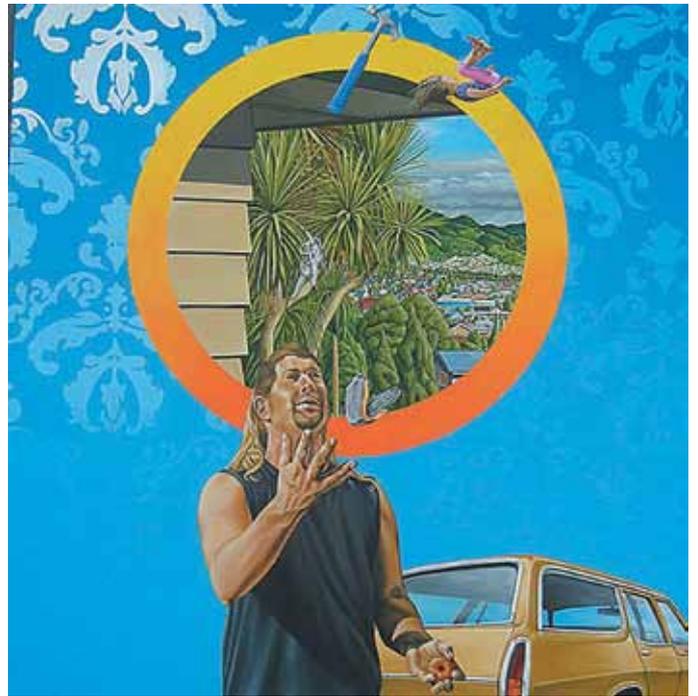
*Skater 2014 - acrylic on board.
380 x 800mm*



*Geoff
2014*



Astrid 2014 - acylic on board. 1200 x 1200mm. Winner of the 'Lisa Grennell - Top of the South Award'



The Juggle - acylic on board. 1200 x 1200mm.



Bullrider 2013 - acylic on board. 0000 x 0000mm.



Taking in the clean air - acylic on board. 0000 x 0000mm.



Parko - acylic on board. 0000 x 0000mm.

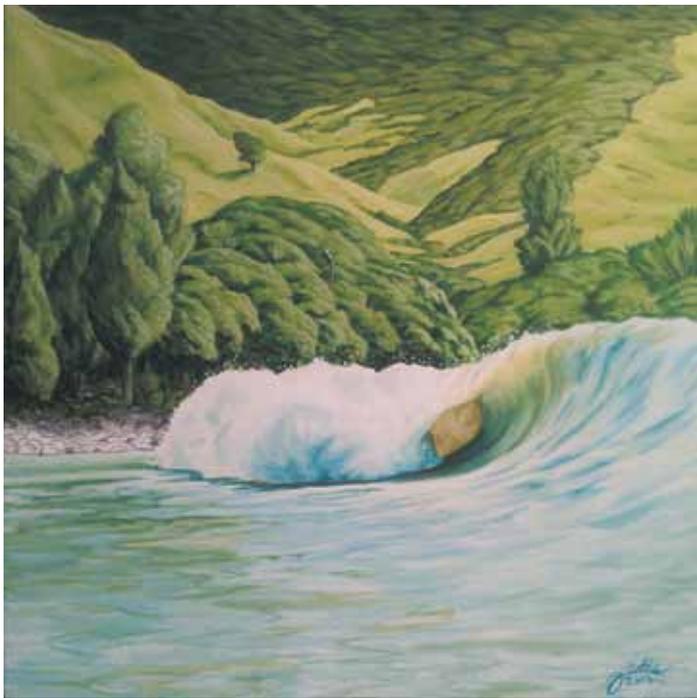
With a passion for capturing movement, Geoff describes himself as a process driven artist that endeavours to create work that is beautiful and technically profound to a high standard. "I like to combine different applications to create a tension in the work. I enjoy using the figurative form and natural subjects to tell stories of environmental, social, and political narrative.

"For the past few years years I have been exploring a mix of realism and abstraction to create stylized environments.

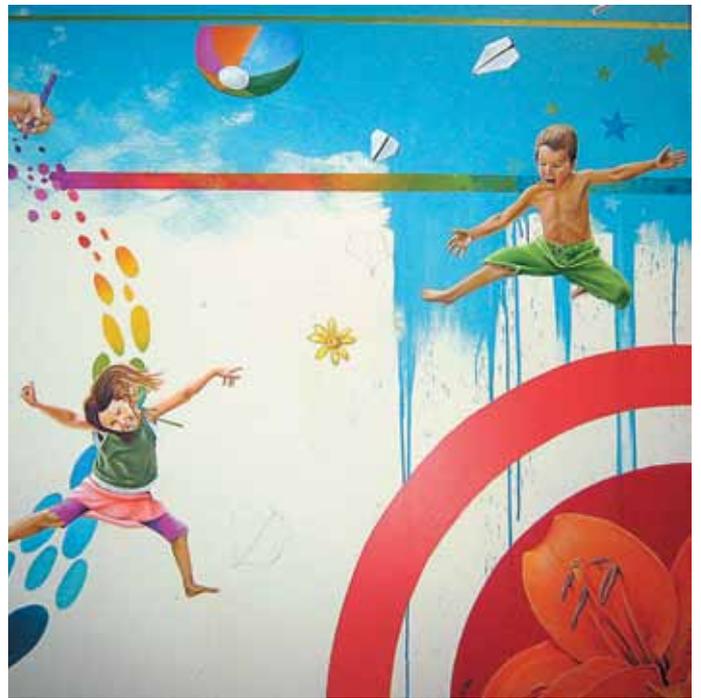
Telling Stories

Geoff likes his paintings to tell a story. He gets to know and build a relationship with his subject and his work.

"My subject varies widely including social politics, NZ culture, environmental comments, music and sports.



Delaware bar (cropped) - acrylic on board. 0000 x 0000mm.



Java and jonny 2010 - acrylic on board. 1200 x 1200mm.



Rowgowski 2008 - acrylic on board. 800 x 400mm.

I aim to paint bright bold paintings to create a joyful mood within the piece."

Most of his work is acrylic on board but Geoff says he has been looking at the techniques and style of some of the older artists he has seen hanging in galleries and museums. "I like the way they layered their work layers and built their paintings from back to front. I may just get my head into oils and canvas sometime in the future."

But that is the future. First and foremost in Geoff's mind are his family, wife, Astrid, his daughter, Java and son, Jonny. "Sometimes I feel I would like to travel and see more of the world. Geoff says with a faraway look in his eye. "Or maybe move up north for a while and catch those vintage waves." But definitely not now. "My family is a huge part of my life," Geoff concludes. "I need to have my family with me. When I go and pick the kids up from school and head off to the beach to catch a wave, it's the best feeling in the world, nothing can beat it." **N**



Louis armstrong 2014 - acrylic on board. 1000 x 700mm. Geoff working in his studio.