



ART GOES ALL TOUCHY FEELY

STEVEN DIX – A PORTRAIT OF A LOCAL ARTIST BY JULIA SAWYER

Tenneriffe-based artist Steven Dix confesses his art is a reflection of what the world really is – "not perfect". He describes himself as a "practical artist" who likes to be liked. "I want people to like my art," Dix said.

His art is not just for attention or reaction, to shock or to be outrageous. It is intended to beautify homes and businesses. His greatest desire is for everyone to enjoy, use, feel and be a part of his artwork. "Please touch the art. Enjoy it now," he says at every exhibition and to every owner of his personable works of art.

Dix's ideology on art as purposeful, beautiful and current has two main origins. One is that he supports art as being part of the public domain and not restricted to a privileged few, therefore being accessible to all.

Examples of this can be found in his smaller works or "mini-montages" that are affordable and can be obtained piece by piece to enhance any space. He also loves to be commissioned to create artworks that fit in with the needs and the colour schemes of his clients and is not too "precious" to change them on request.

The other stems from his grateful recovery from cancer. "It really changed my attitude", he said. "I'm more prepared now to tackle life and take risks. I take decisions for the short term and enjoy life now. Do it now; enjoy it now."

As a result, Dix's work is modern, current, alive and joyful. "My art is a frame into my universe; one that is excited to be alive, one that is not perfect but nevertheless wonderful. "It's got life." Dix is inspired as a painter by everyday life.

Living and painting in a Woolstore at Teneriffe, many of his paintings are based on that subject. His origins in Toowoomba, his wife's in country St George and his experiences in far west Queensland while opal mining can be recognised in his outback inspired work.

Dix prefers to work in acrylic in a manner which creates the appearance of oils. "I stress, scratch, rub, destroy and crack my paint. The result is earthy, tactile, aged, stressed. They're just not a typical bowl of fruit."

Prices range from \$80 to \$2000 this year. Dix is a prolific and dedicated artist who is gaining a regular following of clientele. These are expected to increase in the near future.

His talents are also in demand in the commercial sector requiring corporate imagery and branding, from letterhead to website and beyond. "I help facilitate a dream for business owners," he said. "I was created to create. It's my gift to share the visual with others."

To be a part of his art, either log on to his website at www.stevendix.com or email to attend his exhibitions or for private viewings.

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Pilates allegro classes

what are they?



Simply, an allegro class is a class of up to 7 people performing a full body work out together, led by an instructor each on their own Pilates reformer bed.

With Pilates Allegro classes, you get a full body workout in an hour focusing on increasing core strength, flexibility and body awareness, as well as strengthening your muscles. There is a level to suit everyone, but there are also enough progressions to suit the diehard participants.

Note: Allegro classes are not advised if you have an injury. All participants must have done either an initial assessment, had experience with Pilates previously or done one Beginners class which goes through the essentials.

Allegro and Mat timetable for Helen Street Studio

Day	Time	Class Type	Instructor
Monday	7.00 pm	Advanced Allegro	Erika
	7.00 am	Intermediate Mat	Erika
Tuesday	5.30 pm	Mat - Pilates Toys	Sarah
	6.30 pm	Beginners Allegro	Sarah
Wednesday	7.00 am	Beginners Mat	Erika
	6.30 pm	Mat	Lisa
Thursday	6.30 pm	Mat	Lisa
Friday	7.00 am	Mat	Erika
Saturday	8.00 am	Mat	Lisa
	10.30 am	Intermediate Allegro	Victor/Sam