

THE PORTRAITS OF GERLINDE THOMAS

GERLINDE THOMAS was born in Melbourne to Austrian parents. A marketing career took her around the world before finally settling in the Blue Mountains when she was able to return to her original passion, painting. Gerlinde works in oils with mainly figurative subject matter, specializing in portraiture, although her repertoire is broad, extending to still life and the abstract.

Gerlinde was offered her first solo exhibition in the upstairs gallery of Ashcrofts in Blackheath in 2010, and since then has held a further 6 solo exhibitions and participated in numerous group shows.

Gerlinde Thomas' portraits show precise attention to detail, noting fine character lines, skin tone and blemishes, and yet her subjects are invariably delighted. She describes her interpretation as truthful but it is also stylish.

For portraiture, one needs to be fascinated by faces and absorbed by individual characteristics and I am, says Gerlinde. That provides the first impression and then one gets to know one's subject more deeply, and that's what intrigues me.

Gerlinde's portraits lift their subjects out of the mundane, offering a different perspective, enlivened by

her imagination, hinting at memories of other places and moments in time. There is a nostalgia in these works, as if the past were more perfect than the reality of today. They capture many emotions, perhaps reflective, thoughtful, contemplative, ambitious or isolated - all captured in time.

For the past 14 months Gerlinde has been working on a collection of 29 portraits of members of the Blue Mountains arts community. The group includes writers, photographers, a printmaker, ceramicist, sculptors, poets and a woodcarver, to name a few. There is even a toy maker and an animator.

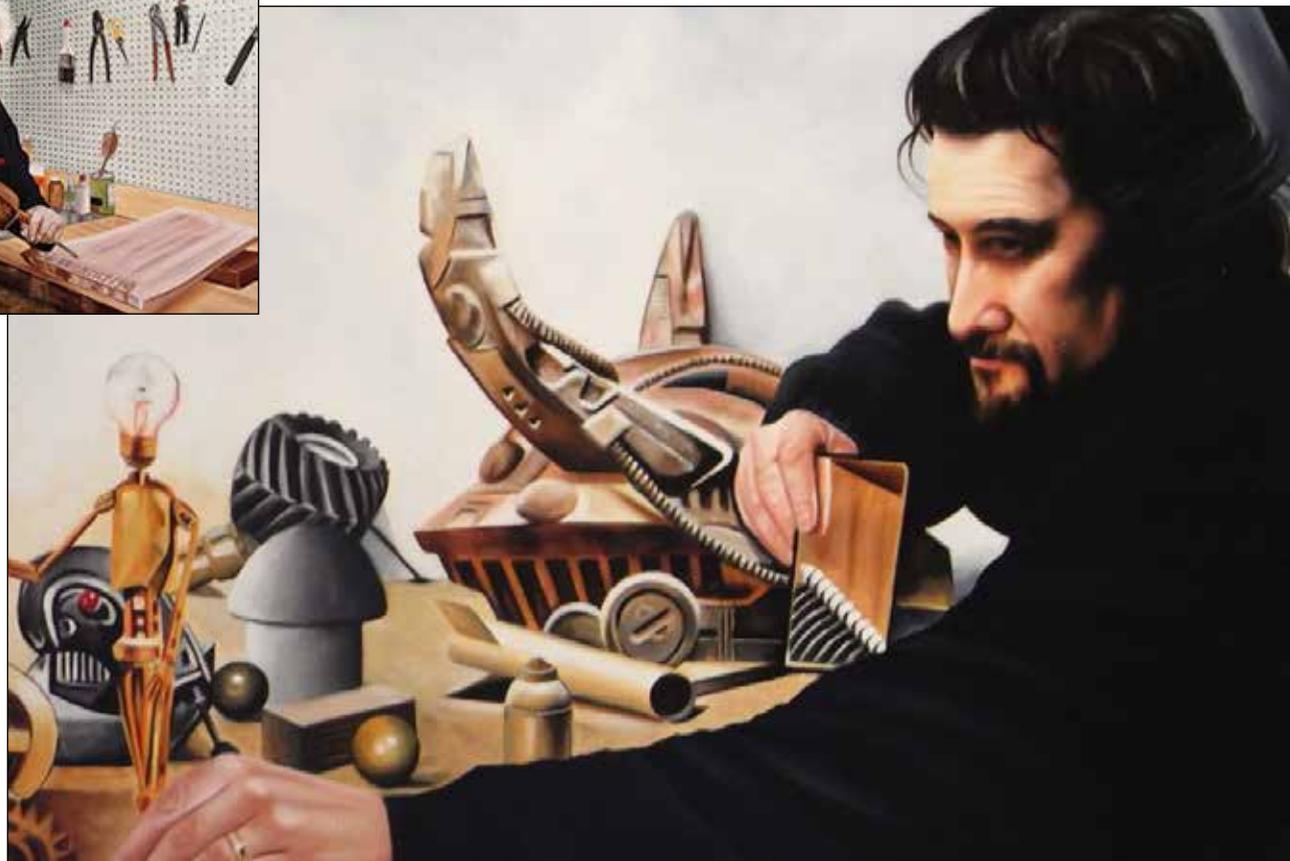
Among Gerlinde's subjects are Christine Townend, founder of Animal Liberation in Australia, artist, writer and poet; Ian Brown, ecologist and photographer; John Cervenka, set designer and tinplate toy maker; Lyn Hart, ceramicist; Peter Adams, photographer and writer, and Sr. Jacinta Shailer, nun and woodcarver.

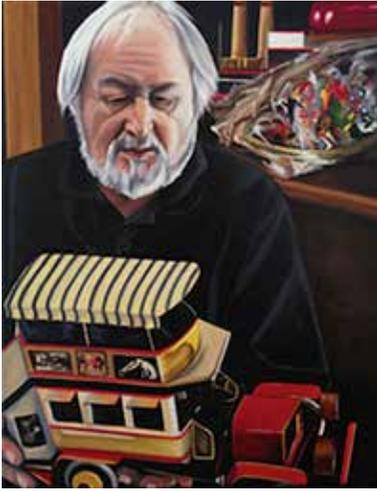
My objective was to put faces to these artists and to showcase some of the amazing talent and passion that we find in the Mountains, says Gerlinde. I have shown them absorbed in their own worlds and craft. Some of them are highly acclaimed, while others lesser known and work in isolation and with very little exposure.



www.gerlinde.com.au

This page:
Portraits of
Sr. Jacinta
Shailer and
Norman Yeend





This collection of portraits, entitled *On the Face of It* reflects Gerlinde's skilful and stylish approach, giving depth and individuality to each subject. She will be producing an online companion artbook showing each portrait together with a brief biography of the subject.

Portraits this page:
 Top left John Cervenka, Lyn Hart
 and centre left, Peter Adams,
 Christine Townend and Ian Brown
 Below: Gerlinde Thomas

