

Artist Statement

Jeff Ferris 2008

“Basically I tend to paint urban landscapes. I live in the western suburbs of Melbourne – Altona. I grew up in Williamstown also a western suburbs town but somewhat changed now (more coffee shops).

Most of my images and ideas come from what I see around me. Petro chemical factories, industrial themes. I always try to produce images that create attention and interest. At the same time I am trying to capture a particular ‘light’ and a particular atmosphere - moment.

The light and the shadows of early mornings – especially winter , has always interested me. The late evening light also is wonderful. The shadows are long and the light is sharp. This light is more intense than European light.

Some of my earlier works had softer less intense skies. I like dark bold skies. I use dark skies as a back drop. The dark allows me to work on the light and to place light colours and shapes against a dark backdrop.

Over the years I’ve always tried to depict the suburban-ness of suburbia, within that urban landscape.

My images have had recurring themes; weatherboard houses, letter boxes, rubbish bins, bus shelters, palm trees etc.

A lot of times I will keep on working on a theme over many paintings, I’m never really happy with what I get.

I always hope the next work will be the one that really captures the light and mood that I’m after.

Craftsmanship and the skill in putting down an image is important to me. I always try to finish the work with skill – like a craftsman.

To that end I’ve always admired the work of the Flemish artists of the 15th century – Hans Memling, Van Der Goes, etc.

Many things influence my art, and I do try to stay open to all things.

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