

Peta Laurisen



Bendigo born and Byron Bay based, Peta started sketching at an early age, inspired by her father, Harvey Hall, who was a prominent Albury artist exhibiting at the Albury Art Gallery, N.S.W.

In her early years Peta moved to Melbourne to continue her schooling, and later graduated from RMIT in Fashion Design.

After finishing her studies she travelled to Brazil, and other parts of South America, then Europe and finally ending up in London. Peta then entered the European fashion design scene in London, creating designs for leading fashion houses such as "BIBA" and "Top Shop".

On returning to Australia some years later, Peta opened two successful boutiques called "Montego Boutique" in Melbourne to show case her own designs. After many years in the rag trade Peta was seeking change.

She bid farewell to the patterns and fabric and picked up a paintbrush and has not put it down since. This was beginning of her career in Trompe L'Oeil Art, (French for "deceive the eye"). Creating large scale Trompe L'oeil for clients both commercial and residential in Australia and South East Asia.

Peta began to establish herself as Australia's most prominent leading Trompe L'Oeil artists. Painting on a daily basis, now for the past 30 years. Her work regularly appearing on television and in many magazines such as "House & Garden Year Book," 1999 "Belle," "Home Beautiful," "Country Looks," "The Melbourne Age, Domaine".

Peta is also the author of an internationally acclaimed coffee table book "Creating Grand Illusions," which acts as a pictorial history of her work over the past twenty years.

In 2001 Peta moved to The Northern Rivers and embarked on another creative turning point. Like her father, she began to explore the canvas..... painting in paradise .

Painting straight on to the canvas, creating the image as she works. Sometimes there are preliminary sketches, and sometimes she works from a photograph, but then seems to create her own imagery as she develops the work.

Her technique is using many layers of acrylic colours, so as to give the work a translucency.

Her principal style is realistic fusing modern day with mythological or surreal references, the contradictions of life, the provocateur and the angel, the power of the feminine seductive sexual energy. The inner world of ambiguous imagery, moving towards magic realism with a strong aesthetic visual beauty juxtapose with extraordinary situations.

Hopefully creating a cavalcade of emotions for the viewer.

Life is a paradox and I like to try and depict this in my art.

Now exhibiting in numerous Galleries in Australia.

Instead of her work being architectural and "Site Specific" as the Trompe L' Oeil art was, Peta has changed to painting the soft lines of the human body.

I am inspired by artists such as, the Pre-Raphaelite period, Caravaggio, Dali, Tamara De Lempicka, Retro Pop culture, the

Commissions Peta has undertaken:

Peta was awarded : "Australian Achiever Award"
Highly Commended 1998. for Interior Design Services.

Peta has been commissioned for many large commercial and residential projects both nationally and internationally.

Tutoring for The Centre of Adult Education, Melbourne, Australia.

- Trompe L'Oeil
- Appearing on National T.V. 'Burke's Backyard' and 'Healthy, Wealthy and Wise'.

Mitre 10 Box Hill, Melbourne, Victoria.

Mitre 10 (Shepparton) Trompe L'Oeil 55m long x 5m high

Mc Donalds Restaurant, and underground drive through, Victoria Rd, Abbotsford, Victoria.

Mc Donalds Restaurant, Bentleigh, Victoria,

Village Road Show Cinemas Camberwell, Melbourne,

Rivoli Cinema Camberwell.

Peta Laurisen has exhibited at:

2008 - Manyung Gallery, Mt Eliza, Victoria.

2008 - Fehva Art Exhibition, Byron Bay, N.S.W.

2007 - Melbourne Art Show , Melbourne.

2007 - Manyung Art Gallery, Mt Eliza ,Victoria.

2007 - Sydney Art Show, 07' Royal Hall of Industries, N.S.W.

2007 - FEHVA art exhibition, Byron Bay, N.S.W. Australia

2007 - Soho Gallery, Sydney, NSW, Australia (solo)

2007 - Sydney Art Show '07, Royal Hall of Industries, NSW .

2006 - Border Art Show, Murwillumbah, NSW, Australia

2006 - FEHVA art exhibition, Byron Bay, NSW, Australia

2006 - Soho Gallery, Sydney, NSW, Australia (solo)

2006 - Fresh, Byron Bay, NSW, Australia (solo)

2006 - Sydney Art Show '06, Royal Hall of Industries, NSW .

2005 - Manyung Gallery, Mt. Eliza, Victoria, Australia

2005 - Sydney Art Show '05, Royal Hall of Industries, NSW .

2004 - Torakina Restaurant, Brunswick Heads, NSW (solo)

2004 - Eroctic on the Beach, Casurina, NSW, Australia

2004 - Affordable Arts, Fox Studios, Sydney, NSW, Australia

2004 - Fresh, Byron Bay, NSW, (solo)

2004 - 48 Hours of Arts, Byron Bay, NSW, Australia

2004 - Maree Mizon, Paddington, Sydney, NSW, Australia

2004 - Soho Gallery, Sydney, NSW, Australia

2003 - Byron Bay Art Show, Byron Bay, NSW, Australia

2003 - Bay Dendy Cinema, Byron Bay, NSW (solo)

2003 - Discovery, Noosa, Queensland, Australia (solo)

2002 - Piece Gallery, Mullumimby, NSW, Australia

2002 - Waywood Gallery, Byron Bay, NSW, Australia

2001 - Gill's Nursery, Hawthorn, Melbourne, Australia (solo)

The "Secret Life of the Geisha" Paintings:

Peta Laurisen's secret life of the Geisha slides back the bamboo screen from the Geisha's mysterious dressing room.

Subtly erotic, provocative and sensually powerful, these Geisha's are highly trained in the classical ways.

The word Geisha means 'work of Art'.

A geisha is the epitome of sensual restraint, and this artist tenderly undresses them easing the last slither of her silk obi before her kimono slips to the floor. Sometimes revealing more to the viewer, she may be adorned with a Yakuza Tattoo, meaning that she belongs to the Japanese Mafia. The more tattooed she is denotes her status in wealth and power. She is a voyeuristic walk on the wild side. We see an alluring Geisha preparing for the client, lost in her own sexuality, divine even before she wraps herself in silk and glides into public view, but with restraint. Innocent yet not, disciplined and yet eager to please. The Geisha disrobes and we find there is more behind the mask.