

SOUL PAINTINGS

JACK BAYLEY, 96, STRUCK ARTISTIC GOLD WHEN HE DISCOVERED A SECRET TECHNIQUE TO CREATE HIS WORKS, AN ABSTRACT TREAT FOR THE SENSES, WRITES EVE FISHER



JACK Bayley will be the first to tell you that he had always been into art, but had never been an actual artist.

He might tell you he had a pastel drawing in the Melbourne Easter Show in the mid 1930s when he was 11 years old but it's likely he won't.

"My mother thought it was the best," he says with a chuckle.

"The judges didn't think so."

It was about 25 years ago that Jack took up art as a serious hobby to replace gardening after moving from Ocean Grove to Geelong where he has no garden.

He was classically trained as a realist artist so had always been interested in the artistic process.

But it was a get-well card for his wife of 71 years, Shirley, that truly inspired him.

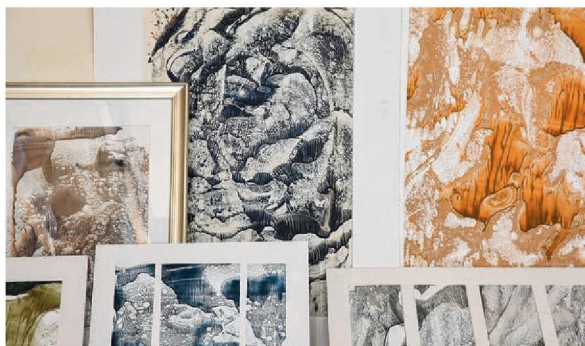
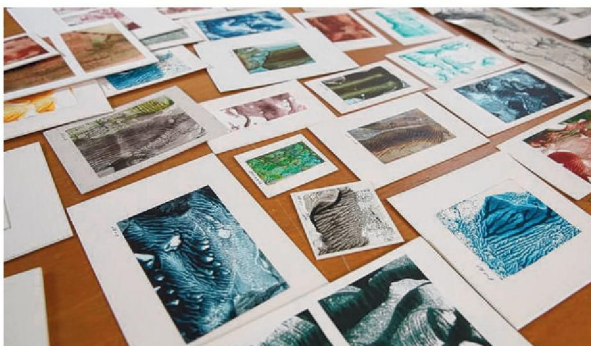
"I looked at it and thought 'I can draw that'," he recalls.

University of the Third Age courses beckoned, offering an affordable and comfortable introduction to a range of mediums: pencil, charcoal, acrylic, oil and watercolour.

"My teacher was a sculptor. He was brilliant and I was lucky to have him," he says. "I'd come home after class and play with what I'd learned... I'm a better person today because of him."

His teacher, Tibor Korn, died in July.

Jack is 96 years old. He still lives at home in Geelong with Shirley and makes art every single day, without fail, starting



Jack Bayley, 96, makes art every day through a secret technique using acrylic paint on paper. Photos: Peter Ristevski



10% off
MENTION
THIS AD



BRIGHT NEW SMILE

- Over 30 Years Experience
- Nursing Home Visits
- Prompt Same day relines & repairs
- Specialises in Mouthguards
- Monday to Friday and Emergencies
- Car Parking
- Bus Stop at the Front Door
- Wheel chair access
- Private/Victorian Denture Scheme
- Veteran Affairs.

DENTURE CLINIC
86 Melbourne Road, (cnr of Sparks Road) Norlane
Phone: 5275 0388 | 0407 342 766
peternewton2009@hotmail.com



Peter Newton

as early as 6am in the quiet of the dawn.

He is sometimes joined by his grandson, Murray White, who is absorbing his grandfather's passion, and learning his skills.

"I'd reveal art all day if I could," Jack says. "I say I go out to the studio to work. Shirley says I go out there to play. She's probably right. I'm really hooked on it."

If you ask Jack what he paints, he will be quick to tell you he paints nothing.

On the other hand, what he "reveals" through his secret technique is a different story.

The technique, using acrylic paint on paper, took him years to develop; his interest was piqued by a piece of art he saw about 10 years ago but couldn't understand how it was created.

He set to work and tried everything he could think of to replicate the original piece he was impressed by.

It took years but when he finally landed on the solution he realised he had struck creative gold, could stop searching for the answer and actually start creating.

Each completed fractal mono-print piece "just looks right", he says, it's correct way up determined by his initials in the bottom right corner.

He won't write his full signature because he feels that should be reserved for an entire creation, not something being revealed.

Every JB artwork is an abstract treat for the senses.



Artist Jack Bayley is teaching his grandson Murray White, right, his trade secrets. Photos: Peter Ristevski



The viewer is desperately curious to know how it's done, but satisfied that the unique piece has been revealed through meticulous timing and balance.

"People always ask how I did it," he says. "I just say I didn't, nature did."

Jack likes leaving people to wonder.

"I've shown three people. They try it and they can't get what I get. But they get something else," he says.

"I did call them magic shapes at one stage.

"I call them revealed pictures now. They're nature-offset fractals.

"You've got no control over it. But it comes from somewhere.

"It's metaphysical."

Jack is an avid student of the school of philosophy; it's been a passion for 30 years and it helps with his art.

"I don't agree with chaos theory," he says. "If you describe chaos as being unpredictable, then I can agree with you.

"I think nature always heads for

equilibrium, not chaos. It's helped me in many ways. Nature takes over in my art.

"You can't look at my paintings and help but feel nature knows where it is going."

These days Jack is challenging himself to do charcoal drawings of the revealed paintings, and loves working with the new medium.

The father of four, grandfather of 17 and great grandfather of 20 (with another two on the way) had his first and only exhibition – aged 88 – in Queenscliff but other than that his creations were only ever seen by those who take an interest. Until now.

Jack wants the world to see his revealed work.

"I can't have anybody visit without telling them about it," he says.

Much of Jack's works are produced on recycled paper and card, despite him being told by several teachers that he had to use the best quality paper he

could afford. Jack argues that unless your work is going to hang in a gallery for 300 years, you don't need to worry too much.

"The only medium where I think paper is important is water colour," he argues.

Jack sources his paint at auction from Kerley's, while Easternview Picture Framers – around the corner from his and Shirley's home – donates the card for mounting. He loves to up cycle and works with found materials where possible.

With Murray's help Jack is gearing up for an exhibition in Rachinger Gallery at the Eastern Hub Community Centre in McKillop Street from November 11-30.

And so he continues, starting work at 6am to reveal his "soul paintings" that "just look right" to the world.

Other exhibitions are being negotiated and his Instagram is up and running @JackBayleyArtist.



Join us for fun, food and greyhound racing!

GREAT VALUE MEALS AND SNACK BAR DINING

CLUB FUNDRAISING, GROUP BOOKINGS AND FUNCTIONS

BUFFET \$20 FOR SENIORS
Buffet is subject to dining numbers.

FULLY LICENCED VENUE



BOOK NOW!

Geelong Greyhound Racing Club
Broderick Rd, Corio
Call 5275 2298 to book
gjuricin@grv.org.au



SENIOR LIVING - 27