

Biography: Andrew Grech:

“To see beyond what the eyes allow you too see”.

Andrew Grech was born in Melbourne, Australia in 1963. He recalls travelling to Europe at a young age and gazing up in awe at the roof of the Sistine Chapel. This life-changing communion with Michelangelo’s masterpiece made a lasting impression, inspiring him to follow his own artistic vocation.

Even at a young age, drawing came easy to Grech and after returning to Australia in 1974, art had really begun to be a daily ritual of drawing. By the end of his high school years, art had become a major part of his life. Feltex International had invited art and design students from all Victorian schools to be considered for a four year traineeship. Grech came second in the overall rankings, winning one of the coveted five scholarships.

This opportunity was pivotal in allowing him to realise his career ambitions as an artist. The company had previously employed George Szloboda, a superbly talented Hungarian artist who had been incarcerated in concentration camps during the Second World War. Szloboda was privileged to have studied and painted with artists such as Oscar Kokoschka and had even spent some time with Pablo Picasso, before migrating to Australia in the late 1950s. The level of artistic achievement borne of this uniquely rich combination of knowledge and life experience had however received only scant public recognition in Australia. Grech’s hunger to achieve his dream was perfectly matched by Szloboda’s ability to help him achieve that dream. It was a relationship that many artists would have given up a lot to duplicate.

Grech was mentored by Szloboda for six years, before leaving Feltex to pursue other interests, freelancing to well-known textile designers, whilst simultaneously continuing to paint and explore his artistic vocation. In the late 1980s he consulted to a well known art company and in 1990 his artwork was exhibited in New York. All the exhibited paintings were sold.

During the nineties his name was becoming well known, with both prominent hotel/corporate clients and private collectors, both in Australia and worldwide, beginning to add to their collections and invest in Grech’s artwork. Private collectors came from all walks of life; Grech was commissioned by people as diverse as rock stars, well-known celebrities and elite athletes. Grech never pursued the avenue of having his work exhibited, as his art was always in high demand, but in the late 1990s, he was persuaded by an English art consultant to exhibit his work in a London show. Once again, all his paintings were sold out on the opening night.

Grech’s artwork has taken him to many countries and he has travelled extensively to further enhance his art and his artistic ambitions. His current client portfolio is substantial,

including many hotels, corporate clients and private collectors throughout the world.

His vision and imagination can sometimes penetrate the very logic of how we see art. His colours, textures and blending are truly remarkable and he uses forms and techniques acquired directly from the prolific artists of bygone generations. In this he has been most fortunate and owes a great debt to his defining encounters with past masters, which have led to him being dubbed ‘the master of the alchemy of colour’.



Land of Red

Artist’s Comments:

It seems like a lifetime ago when I was told by a gallery consultant that I should give up my ambition to paint full-time and pursue another profession. How ironic it was that years later this consultant ended up purchasing one of my paintings; if only she appreciated the extent to which her words inspired me to succeed, and until this day those words have continued to inspire my imagination.

I grew up in a tough area where wanting to become an artist was not easy and often, as is the case in many other professions, nepotistic attitudes conspired to thwart my ambitions. But I was very determined to succeed in spite of these obstacles.

One of the greatest gifts I have ever received was the experience of learning that art and life are like a marriage; namely, a never-ending struggle to truly understand that which lies beyond what your eyes permit you to see, ultimately allowing your thoughts, feelings, experiences and your inner-soul to become as one with your craft. George Szloboda was not just my teacher – he truly wanted me to understand that what I would learn from him was not simply text book knowledge, but how to live life amidst all its cycles

Limited Edition Print & Art Andrew Grech – Artist

of good fortune and hardship, which in turn would create the very essence of what an artist might be capable of becoming. I used to laugh as he explained these 'mumbo jumbo' concepts to me, but 27 years later I smile at how young and naïve I must have been not to fully comprehend the value of what he was teaching me. I miss the man since he passed on and treasure every single word and piece of knowledge he shared with me, as it has shaped the very person I would like to become.

I love to vary certain styles of my artwork. I was once told: "Imagine eating spaghetti and bread every day and how your taste buds would die of boredom; now imagine painting the same things over and over again. You must allow your imagination to free itself and not be chained to rules, because there are no rules." There is no greatest painter or artist that can say he or she is world champion. Art has no winner. You, within yourself, must aspire to reach a stage where you sense that your art has truly begun to have an effect on people's thoughts and perceptions. I know many artists who will create something just to be controversial, for the sake of being a stand-out. Or artists whose art is so two-dimensional, it lacks life. It should be sufficient to paint something just because you have the compulsion to do so, and for no other reason.

Over the years, I have had to transform myself, emerging from my cocoon as something that has been freed from being governed by the purely visual sensory perceptions relayed to my mind. I look at things maybe differently to the way other people see things. I was taught to act and paint based on the assumption that I had only a month left to live. All of a sudden your senses awake, you really appreciate things like the sun powering through the darkened clouds and you begin to touch and feel objects like you have never done in your life. You start to become one with yourself and the beauty that nature provides every day of our lives.

I will always remember to slow down and look, and when my eyes see something that triggers my senses, to close my eyes, take that picture and make it my own world of art within myself. I do admit that on many occasions I feel like I am in some sort of a trance when I paint. It is almost as if my soul has left my body and I can see myself painting the canvas. On a jovial note, no drugs are involved. I was told and believe that there are many colours yet to be discovered and seen by the naked eye. I am forever seeking these colours so I may have them dance upon my canvas and paper and always exploring how to further summon my brushstrokes and these colours from the realm

that lies beyond what my eyes allow me to perceive. I will pursue this love of my art to the very end of my life.



Andrew Grech

See Page 3 to find some of the locations where my art can be located.

Limited Edition Print & Art

Mobile: 0413 194 336

Fax: (07 3025-3300

Email: info@limitededitionart.com.au

Web www.limitededitionart.com.au

PO Box 2574 Fortitude Valley, QLD, Australia 4006

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Carnival Cruise Lines, London
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Welcome Hotel, Melbourne
All Seasons, Hotel, Melbourne
The Lindrum Hotel, Melbourne
Novotel Northbeach Hotel, Wollongong
NSW
Novotel Atrium Hotel, Darwin
The Como Hotel, Melbourne
Hepburn Springs Hilton Hotel, Melbourne
Moonee Valley Race Club, Melbourne
Stanelake Private Hospital
Melbourne Manchester United Football
Club, Manchester (UK)
The Willett Hotel, United Kingdom
Novotel Bayside Hotel, St Kilda, Melbourne
All Seasons Oasis Hotel, Alice Springs
Sebel Hotel, Sydney
Prospect Management, Sydney
NSK Office, Melbourne & Japan
National Mutual, Melbourne
RACV, Melbourne
Windsor Hotel, Melbourne
Deakin University Apartments, Geelong
Manly Pacific Park Roya I, Sydney
RACV Hillsville, Hillsville (Victoria)
Stock Exchange, Malaysia
Circuit Sports Café, Melbourne
Qantas, Melbourne
Rialto Foyer Melbourne
Road Traffic Authority, Melbourne
Frontier Darwin Hotel, Darwin
Financial Resources, Melbourne
Mt Buller Chalet Hotel, Grocon Project,
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280 Queen Street, Melbourne

