

Press Release 23 June 2006



THE BOAT SHOW by The Waterfront Group

Opening Thursday 13 July, 6 – 8pm

The exhibition to be opened by the **Hon. John Thwaites**,
Member for Albert Park, Minister for Water & the Environment

Exhibition: 13 – 30 July 2006

BRIGHTSPACE

8 Martin St
St Kilda Vic 3182

Gallery Hours:

12 – 6 Wed - Sat
1 – 5 Sundays

En Plein Air

Group shows are two bob a dozen but a group that paints together and shows together ... that's a rare thing.

BRIGHTSPACE is showing the work of a group of St Kilda based artists who paint together en plein air around the docks every second Sunday. The group includes a few very well known painters. There is some wonderfully fresh and lively work amongst the 40 pieces in the show and the range of different talents is amazing.

Dave Last, a key member says about the group's beginnings, *Our group grew from a discussion between Jex (Peter Byron) and Mark Schaller, both keen plein air painters. Their idea was to get me out regularly on landscape painting trips. Since I live in St Kilda we decided to use the bay as our subject, in particular the docklands and shipping (containers **not** yachts). It reminds me of fishing or surfing, bumping around at dawn in my ute judging the tides and weather trying to catch a big ship or two. I now find painting in public a liberating experience, especially when you can hide within a group. Our group now has grown to the point that on any day we may have as many as a dozen artists working in the same time and location.*

Portraitist **Peter Byron (Jex)** is a regular. He says they don't really have members *People just turn up at designated rendezvous and get to work. We are not sure we even have a name and we have no manifesto, no shared outlook, no point of view about art, no presumptions or pretensions, no particular style, no common view about what we should be painting or what we want to do or how we want to do it. We are not even very sure about why but we are agreed about this: our studio practice benefits from getting out in fresh air, we like what we have to show each other after each session. It is always a surprise.*

This is the way they have been doing it for almost two years. In that time they have amassed a huge collection work featuring "Melbourne". Now there is a name. It is that sense of locale that binds it all together and gives it a very particular quality of ... well ... Melbourne.

ARTISTS: Peter Andrews, Julie Goodwin, Gail Hedley, Jex (Peter Byron), Emma Keep, Dave Last, Sally McCrae, David Porter, Michael Porter, Graeme Rowe, Fiona Somerville, David Waters.

Further information please contact Kylie Greer at BRIGHTSPACE 9593 9366 or 0423 225 182.

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