



Arable 76 x 152 cm. Acrylic on canvas

BRYCE BROWN

**Recent Works by Bryce Brown. Creative Tauranga
March 8 - 27 2012**

Bay of Plenty artist Bryce Brown describes his latest body of work as semi-autobiographical, yet symbolic in ways that we can all relate to.

Brown says of the recent work, "With life's ups and downs over the last couple of years, I've become very reflective, searching, interpreting meaning and understanding (or not-understanding) and making these images. It shows in the subject matter, and in the way the works are painted."

Since his first solo exhibition in 1999, Brown has become known as an artist who has always taken a bold, very painterly approach to his work, creating thick texture on canvas before beginning on the image. These recent paintings however are more layered, and much softer, allowing the viewer to see through to the very soft patinas in the paint, making the work quite contemplative.

Past exhibitions of Brown's works have been a reflection of family and the people around him, paintings of Mother and Child (Bella Mama 2004) after the birth of his son Henri, and the camaraderie of people

working together (Amici 2005). His last exhibition which was four years ago, Lightly on the Land was inspired by the female alchemy that lets a woman care for her children, work the land, take care of business, plan for the future and then make herself beautiful to meet the world once again.

"This work is mostly about how the world affects me, personally, and how I see my place in the world." Says Brown. He says of one of the works, "I have called this piece Arable, to show that despite the environment, with care, nurturing and love, things will grow and flourish against the odds". Arable depicts a lone figure, kneeling down to plant (or pick) a single plant in what would seem to be an arid, featureless landscape, incapable of sustaining anything. Yet against the odds, there is life, and hope.

Some of work also reflects on what Bryce calls connected disconnectedness, based on his observations of how individuals or small groups can choose to connect or to remain isolated from each other. Two examples of this are Coastal Connection and Life Support (Pulse).



Laundry Day 101 x 76 cm. Acrylic on canvas

The exhibition runs March 8 - 27 at Creative Tauranga. Please join us for morning tea on Saturday March 10 from 10.00am - 11.30am.

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