

Finished Work

This was a rather unusual and large painting commissioned by an oil pipe laying company in South Australia. My first draft was a fairly monotonal version which focused on the ship's lines and structure. The final painting included an afternoon storm which I think added a sense of drama to the scene.



Advice for Buying Art Online

With all the options for buying art these days, many people are bypassing the traditional gallery system and buying art directly online. Here's some tips on what to look out for:

- **Watch out for low quality** "There is a lot of junk out there," said David Sasson, founder of OverstockArt.com. "Unfortunately, the great majority of art-selling web sites is of low quality and offers an amateur approach far below industry standards. The solution is to look for sites that have customer reviews available."

Commissioning a Sports Portrait

Often I am asked for ideas about what makes an unusual portrait.. In a sports mad country like Australia I reckon you can't go past portraying your family member or friend doing what they love most

- playing their weekend football , soccer, cricket or netball game.

In this painting for Nick I blurred the action then painted in his very own stadium crowd in the background.



- **Do your research** Look for as much information you can find about the artist and the art itself. Take the time to read the artist's biography and testimonials to see how others have rated their buying experience. Don't be afraid to ask for the contact details of previous customers.
- **Offline presence** Make sure the gallery or artist has a physical address and/or customer contact number. How quickly do they respond to your enquiries?
- **Establish a budget** Be prepared to pay fair prices for quality artwork. If you expected to pay \$30 for a 6-foot sculpture , you're going to need to downsize your expectations or expand your budget. Remember to include the cost of framing in your budget.
- **Many happy returns** Sometimes art can look different to what you saw on your computer monitor. A reputable online gallery should have a comprehensive return policy if you are not happy.
- **Buy what you like** Look at lots of art and learn your tastes. Pick art pieces that you feel express your personality or if you are buying as a gift, pick something that says something about your relationship with the person.

What am I working on at the moment?



Here's a children's portrait in its mid stages. So far I am concentrating on creating a likeness using the umber tones, then building up flesh tones. I'm still undecided about the background...see the finished product in the next issue!

Special points of interest:

- "Intensely Dutch" Excellent exhibition of post war painting at AGNSW.
- Article Tree Drawings" Art done by trees!
- The paint tube was invented in 1841 and allowed artists to mix paint directly on the canvas for the first time. Renoir said "Without tubes of paint, there would have been no Impressionism".

Easel cam: here's another one I'm working on.



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