

## Finished Work



This was a particularly involving painting due to its size and level of detail, but I was happy with the finished result.

**A Modern Crystal Palace?** It occurred to me while painting the newly refurbished Birkenhead Shopping Centre (above) the amazing similarity to the Crystal Palace in London (left). The Crystal Palace was a cast iron and glass building originally erected in Hyde Park, London to house the Great Exhibition of 1851. After the exhibition the building was moved



to a new park in an affluent area of London called Sydenham Hill where it attracted visitors from all levels of society. With its modular construction and huge glass panels, the Palace was indeed the shopping mall of its time, attracting some 40,000 people on Sundays before finally being destroyed by fire in 1936.

## 5 Unique Ideas for Portrait Photography

- Candle Light.** For a soft, romantic portrait, candlelight can create a unique lighting effect.
- Use Face Paint.** Avoid that washed out effect and experiment with eyeliner and other cosmetics.
- Costume.** While you're at it, why not dress up in period costume? It's quirky, it's different and it's fun.
- Black and White or Sepia Tones.** Recreate the look of yesteryear or colourise just hair, eyes, jewellery etc.
- Mirrored Portraits and Reflections** can add a sense of mystery and intrigue.

## What's on my easel at the moment?



This is one of two farm commissions that I've been working on this month. I always jump at the opportunity to paint the Australian landscape—I particularly love a painting which tells a story. In this painting the dogs are waiting expectantly to begin their day's work. When I introduce the colour it will be the bright shades of early morning. I'm not sure about the sky yet—maybe pinks and blues?



Another portrait using the glazing technique. A high gloss finish really adds depth to the skin tones.

## Special points of interest:

- Article "[Paris Street Painters Lose to Cheap Chinese Paintings](#)".
- "At the age of six I wanted to be a cook. At seven I wanted to be Napoleon. And my ambition has been growing steadily ever since."  
- Salvador Dali
- Art News Blog "[Plinth Mistaken for Sculpture](#)".

These are my two most used glazing mediums: Liquin produces a translucent layer when mixed with oil paint and is excellent for fine detail.



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