

# EXPRESSION

Rebecca Twite



...its Ursula has submitted, and 10 times. Ursula has won the 2013 Doug Moran Award at the S.H. Ervin Gallery in Melbourne, was a finalist in the 2012 Portrait Award at the S.H. Ervin Gallery in Melbourne, also won Best Photograph at the Phillip Island and San Remo International Photo Show, and scoring a Best of Show Award at the 2014 Phillip Island Photo Exhibition at Phillip Island.

...mainly a welcome validation of the fact that you have put in the time and effort to achieve something in life. The next generation to come is an opportunity to have branched into other areas, including Werner's talent in

...purpose built home-cum-workshop home of Wonthaggi, is now entrenched themselves in the local community, with both of them now President. They offer annual local bus tours to Phillip Island residences, as well as open to the public by

...inspiration not only to many others who are busy with their day to day routine, never mind seeing that there is a way to do it, a now way to do it creatively, no matter how it is taught or created. It is to know that if you want to do it, to do it is make a choice

and whip out a pencil, brush or camera and let your own creative journey begin and enrich your life in ways you didn't think were possible.

Werner and Ursula **Theinert's Gallery** at 3 Chisholm Road Wonthaggi is open by appointment by calling Ursula on 0439 699 241. You can view their works on their websites: [www.ursulatheinert.com.au](http://www.ursulatheinert.com.au) and [www.wernertheinert.com.au](http://www.wernertheinert.com.au)

Photographs by Rebecca Twite



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Photocollage: Twine



and who put a pencil, brush or camera and let your own creative journey begin and enrich your life in ways you didn't think were possible.

Werner and Lisaue Theinert's Gallery at 3 Chevalin Road Worthing is open by appointment by calling Lisaue on 0439 698 241. You can view their works on their website: [www.wernertheinert.com.au](http://www.wernertheinert.com.au) and [www.lisauetheinert.com.au](http://www.lisauetheinert.com.au)

Photography by Rebecca Twine



Accades are most certainly a welcome validation of your works, but knowing that you have put in the hard yards and achieved something in life that will remain for generations to come is an even better one. Both have branched into other artistic endeavours, including Werner's talent in woodwork.

Now living in their own purpose built home cum-studio/gallery in their new home of Worthing, Werner and Lisaue have embraced themselves in the thriving local arts community, with both of them heavily involved in the ArtSpace Worthing, so much so that Lisaue is now President. They are also included on the annual local bus tours of local art galleries and residences, as well as their own gallery being open to the public by appointment.

The Theinerts are an inspiration not only to the writer personally, but to many others who are encapsulated in day to day routines, never deviating from that path, and seeing that there is a new life out there if you want it, a new way to express yourself and live creatively, no matter how small you think cannot be taught or created. It is



# JOURNEY TO ARTISTIC



At some point in most peoples lives, the dream of making a change from their day to day routine and venturing down a different path is little more than just that, a dream; but for Werner and Ursula Theinert, that dream had such a passionate drive behind it, that they followed through with that dream.

The desire for a more creative lifestyle struck back in the early '90s when the Theinerts and their young son James were living in Batrair, where Werner worked in the energy sector and Ursula was teaching at an international school. Whilst admittedly neither Werner or Ursula had much of an artistic output in their lives to that point, other than a combined love of art, and a lifelong interest in drawing on Ursula's behalf, the urge for a more tactile and expressive outlet was one that would soon come to fruition upon their return home on the heels of the Gulf War.

On their return home, Ursula enrolled in a Diploma of Visual Arts and a Certificate IV in Ceramics at the nearby TAFE, where she rediscovered and embraced this new form of expression with both hands. Ursula's new found joy was infectious with Werner soon feeding off that same energy and finding his own outlet. The husband and wife team thrived with their new shared drive and soon had their first ever exhibition together showcasing their skills as photographers which well and truly ignited their passion. Becoming regular entrants in a vast array of exhibitions for both photography and painting, they also retained a stall for 4 years running at the annual Art Melbourne festival.

Tragedy struck the Theinert family in 2009 when fire tore through their much loved home and studio in the February bushfires. Their heartbreak



soon channelled itself into creativity and a form of therapy as they began a prolific period in their artistic expression.

The Theinerts along with a group of other artists including Kerrie Warren, Leonie Ryan and Peter Biran, would form the movement "environmental expressionism" in 2008. According to their manifesto Environmental Expressionism "utilises the arts to convey or express the conceptual content of the environment, or in particular, relevant issues concerning the environment paying particular emphasis regarding the natural world". The group then embarked on a touring exhibition called "Fields of View". This movement has been very clear in both Werner and Ursula's art, with the natural landscape being a large focus in Werner's wonderful large scale photographic pieces, and the environmental influence being

evident in Ursula's paintings and can also be seen in her portrait series.

Riding their wave of success and intense creative motivation, Werner and Ursula submitted four works each to the Cunningham Dax Centre; a series of artworks by people affected by the Black Saturday bushfires. During the process of application, the Theinerts had found their new home and began their new life when they were informed at each one of their works were gladly accepted into the collection, where they took on a life of their own as part of the "From the Fire" collection at the University of Melbourne to give insight and inspiration to many.

The talented pair have achieved success in many exhibitions, especially in the coveted Archibald Prize's wayward cousin, the Victorian Salon des