

lifestyle

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Meet Rosa Fedele, Balmain Portrait Painter

Rosa Fedele is rapidly becoming a Balmain institution for her wonderful ability as a portrait painter to capture the essence of real people in a beautiful oil painting.

"I particularly like working with children; they have a freshness that can be caught forever", she says. "I focus on the beauty in people and aim to bring that out in a painting that will be cherished and valued as a family heirloom for years and even generations to come".

Based at her Beattie Street studio, Rosa invites anyone who is even vaguely interested in a portrait to drop by for a cup of tea and a chat. It seems some people are a little daunted by the thought of a

portrait and possibly the cost. A typical project can take up to 3 months at a cost starting at \$1,000 to \$1,500 for a 60 x 50cm piece. The important thing is to take the project slowly and comfortably.

Rosa's love of the human form and her use of dramatic and glamorous settings have met with acclaim at a number of exhibitions. Two of her recent series on ballerina and flamenco dancers have been selected for an exhibition in Parliament House. Her next personal project is the 'Icons of Balmain', the notable but ordinary people of her adopted home suburb of the past 15 years. For her first subject she plans to paint Bill's Garage, given Bill's passing away a month ago.

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Gallery by appointment

News Review

Replacing Balmain Tigers

Is there more money in football or property development?

The Tigers have an idea it may be in property it seems, given the \$100 million development plan they have released for their 6,000 sqm site on Victoria Road.

They are proposing to build a new club topped off with 175 residential dwellings, a supermarket and open air plaza surrounded by shops, restaurants, parking and an open air cinema.

The terraced plaza and the apartments will be looking to take advantage of the prominent club position at the top of Rozelle Hill, facing north over Iron Cove and beyond to the ridges of Drummoyne. They are also proposing a footbridge over Victoria Road.

The development plan is before the public for comment. The Tigers' expectation is that its masterplan application will be lodged with Council by November and construction completed within 3 years – by 2008.

RECENT SALES

31 South Avenue, Leichhardt	
2 bedroom house	\$610,000
43 Donnelly Street, Balmain	
1 bedroom house	\$540,000
8/67 Beattie Street, Balmain	
3 bedroom townhouse	\$575,000
4 Quirk Street, Rozelle	
4 bedroom house	\$700,000
35 Nicholson Street, Balmain East	
4 bedroom house	Undisclosed
33 Palmer Street, Balmain	
2 bedroom house	\$850,000
98/2 Buchanan Street, Balmain	
3 bedroom apartment	\$515,000
5 Rose Street, Birchgrove	
Vacant block 277sqm	\$930,000

SYDNEY LIVE



Aussie as ... Rosa Fedele with one of her paintings celebrating our love affair with the Holden

picture: JOHN FO

Driven to remember

The Australian Icons Suite

Iain Howells Art Gallery

Art

These were the cars in which Australia learned to drive, made love, and drove to the drive-in. The glamour of the Holden motorcar through the years is what Sydney artist Rosa Fedele set out to capture with her latest set of paintings.

There's the magic of the 1950s and '60s, and film beauties Sophia Loren and Gina Lollobrigida — though it was also a chaste time, she says.

For a lot of people growing up in the 1950s, the FJ was their first car.

The Balmain-based artist used girls from the suburb as models, and draped them over the iconic chassis of the cars for the oil on canvas works.

They range from a classic 1954 FJ to a 1972 LJ Torana, "a very funky little car".

The paintings capture and do justice to an era that renders many Australians, including our prime minister, more than a little misty-eyed.

And for the artist, the project represents a decade-long labour of love.

"It's been on the back of my mind for the last 10 years," Fedele says.

"I wanted to paint a story about the Holdens but I didn't start until two years ago."

Half the fun, it seems, was in researching the images and the signs of the times.

"I did a lot of research. A lot of it was done in the State Library, going through the microfiches of old copies of *The Women's Weekly* from the '50s and '60s for the fashions, the times — and the cars," Fedele says. "It was all very glam and I wanted to capture a vintage feel in this

retrospective. But it was chaste, innocent time."

The broad range of cars includes a 1966 Chrysler, one of Fedele's favourites: "a really beautiful old car".

Fedele says the paintings reflect her passion for the motorcar, and her love of life.

The *Australian Icons* exhibition is part of a display of 35 of Fedele's

□ The *Australian Icons* Suite by Rosa Fedele until July 10 at Iain Howells Art Gallery, Darling St, Balmain

TIP