

Ian de Souza
'Dancing in the Street'
La Tropicana Cafe, High Street Fremantle
10-17 October 2006



... when working with rice paper I am looking for the happy accidents, and the chance result....



"dancing in the street" is about the melting pot of art, tapas, tango and latin music all of which embrace the flavour of Fremantle.

Media kit

Media interviews and images
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MEDIA RELEASE

Fremantle comes alive with latest dance and art inspiration from local painter Ian de Souza. 'Dancing in the Street' opens in Fremantle on 10 October...

Hot on the heels of a wildly successful Melbourne show at the Lynne Wilton gallery last March, and influenced by his love of latin dancing, Ian de Souza is showing a selection of 9 x 5 paintings at la Tropicana Café Fremantle, between 10-17 October 2006.

DANCING in THE STREET is about the melting pot of art, tapas, tango and latin music – all with the flavour of Fremantle at the La Trop.

Fremantle artist Ian de Souza, winner of WA's 2005 and 2004 Cossack Art Award (Invitation Artist category and landscape oil/acrylic category respectively), is one of Western Australia's leading artists.

A painter for over 20 years, **'Dancing in the Street' features 30 exquisite new works in Chinese inks, collage and acrylics that reflect his passion for music and dance.**

"I've been inspired to create the Dancing in the Street exhibition from my lifelong interest in music and dance. I've held a strong fascination for the human body and all its unique expressions," says Ian de Souza, a keen singer and former 1960's pop star.

"An important consideration for me when painting is to capture the fleeting and subtle expressions of a movement and in this instance, it's dance. My years of training of drawing the human figure enable me to achieve this."

De Souza's paintings and drawings capture a quick, lively expression and fluidity of movement. His work fleshes out a figure or figures in abstract tones, creating a mood and bare hint of narrative. His short, quick brush strokes convey a sense of lightness and dynamic expression (Judith McGrath).

The latest issue of Singapore's leading art publication, *The Monty Magazine* describes de Souza as "An embodiment of artistic fusion and hybridity."

Ian de Souza's life has been anything but conventional. Born in West Malaysia, with a family background from Macau and Portugal, de Souza has been a global nomad, living, performing and painting all over the world for a large part of his life. With highly skilled dancer parents (particularly in tango) and siblings able to sing and play many instruments, his childhood years were filled with music and dance, and have inspired this latest concept.

De Souza's work has an emphasis on drawing that reveals an influence from artists such as Picasso, Matisse and Turner. After settling in Fremantle in the 1980's, de Souza's artistic journey for the past 25 years has been drawing upon Western art tradition, but now he feels compelled to tap into his Asian heritage, especially after a visit to China and Singapore in 2004.

The de Souza studio and residence in Fremantle is a work of art in itself. With a unique indoor/outdoor living space featuring old railway carriages and many artworks, it has been the subject of a UK documentary appeared in *House and Garden* (USA).

MEDIA: For information, images & interviews, please contact Trudy Johnston, 02 9499 7658, 0402 485 902, trudy@tjc.com.au, www.iandesouza.com.au

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IAN DE SOUZA

GALLERIES + AGENTS

Art Source in association with The Artist Foundation of WA

Gallows Gallery Western Australia

Gallery 360 Western Australia

Yallingup Gallery Western Australia

Accent on Waratah Western Australia

Jahroc Gallery Margaret River

Michael Commerford Gallery Rushcutters Bay, Sydney

Redhill Gallery Queensland

Emporium Gallery Fortitude Valley Queensland

Lynne Wilton Gallery Armadale Victoria

OVERSEAS AND INTERSTATE EXHIBITIONS

- 2006 Dancing in the Street – @ La Tropicana – Fremantle
- 2006 Body of Dance – Lynne Wilton Gallery, Armadale Victoria
- 2005 *Passion* - Lynne Wilton Gallery Armadale, Victoria.
- 2005 *Journey: a retrospective* - Mandurah Art Gallery.
- 2004 *Successions of a Variation* - Freight Gallery, Fremantle.
- 2003 *Selection of recent Works by Ian de Souza* – Goldfields Art Centre, Kalgoorlie.
- 2002 *Lyrics of the Landscape* – Gallows Gallery, Mosman Park Perth.
- 2001 *The Kimberley Thru' My Eyes* – Michael Commerford Gallery, Sydney.
The Essential Line – Gallows Gallery, Mosman Park Perth.
- 2000 *Reflective Impressions Pt 1 and Pt 2* – Moores Building, Fremantle Perth.
- 1999 *Forme de la femme #2* – Michael Commerford Gallery, Sydney.
- 1998 *Ian de Souza Selection of Works* – Michael Commerford Gallery, Sydney.
- 1997 *Floriade* University of Canberra at Old Parliament House, Canberra.
- 1995 *Spring Exhibition* – Barry Newton Gallery, Adelaide.
- 1993 *Ian de Souza Solo Exhibition* – Gallery Mack, Seattle USA.
- 1990 San Francisco – mixed exhibition involving 6 Australian artists.

CORPORATE COMMISSIONS + AWARDS

- 2005 Cossack Acquisitive Art Award: Winner Invited Artists category.
- 2004 Cossack Acquisitive Art Award: Winner Landscape in oil or acrylic.
Mandorla Contemporary Religious Art Award: Finalist.
- 2003 Cooperative Bulk Handling Ltd: Art work commissioned for the new foyer of Cooperative Bulk Handling Ltd.
Port Bouvard Ltd – 5 artworks commissioned for the Company's collection.

AUSTRALIAN COLLECTIONS & COMMISSIONS

Australian Broadcasting Commission; ANZ Banking Group; Bunbury Shire Council; Challenge Bank; Gloucester Park Trotting Assoc; Geraldton Shire Council; Murdoch University Veterinary Trust; SGIO Collection; Wesfarmers Limited Voyager Estate Winery; Port Bouvard Limited; Evans and Tate; Pentek Holdings Pty Ltd; Cooperative Bulk Handling Ltd; Pilbara Iron; Kerry Stokes private collection; Cathay Corporation Pty Ltd Singapore.

QUALIFICATIONS

- 1963 Graduated Perth Technical College (Now Perth Central College of Art and Design)
Certificate in Commercial Art.
- 1967 Western Australian Institute of Technology (Now Curtin University)
Associateship in Art Teaching
- 1997 Participant in Drawing Marathon hosted by the Adelaide Central School of Art and conducted by the Dean of the New York Studio School.



Ian de Souza in his studio
Photo courtesy of Roger Garwood