

18 January 2010

## Memories of France at Arts Centre

The recent works of Berry artist Bruce Chanter are on exhibition in a one – man show, Memoires de France, at the Shoalhaven City Arts Centre, Berry St, Nowra.

Bruce is exhibiting 34 oil paintings and eight assemblages portraying the evocative atmosphere of France. Bruce travels regularly to France for about three months at a time to capture the vibrancy and light of Paris and the peaceful ebb of seasonal life in the French countryside.

“While I love painting the beautiful South Coast where I live and the rugged inland areas of Australia, France provides a different experience altogether – softer, bluer light, ancient buildings and villages, different life and seasonal changes,” Bruce said. “It is such a contrast and so inspiring. We drive all over France – slowly! Staying in small villages off the beaten track, we immerse ourselves in the atmosphere, culture, history and lifestyle of the area. It is a sensory journey, a magical place and I love trying to capture the feeling of it in paint. The light and colour of skies reflecting the weather, time of day, varying moods from sombre and pensive to bright and sparkling, caught in pigment.”

To quote Marcel Proust: “The voyage of discovery lies not in discovering new lands but in seeing with new eyes.”

All 34 paintings are framed in individual traditional frames – not one the same. This was done to create a similar ambiance to the wonderful galleries one sees in Paris where the eclectic frames range from plain gold to quite ornate.

The assemblages exhibited are of found objects and ephemera grouped and mounted on a textured collage surface.

This collage base is a build-up of washi art paper, hand-made and hand printed marbled paper, card, fabric and other found materials. On these are mounted the ephemera: old written letters, documents and postcards in French, labels, tickets, book pages, newspaper cuttings and menus, many from early last century.

Finally an assemblage of small objects to fit the theme is added, found in the flea markets, gypsy stalls, antique shops and fairs in France.

Each assemblage work has an individual design and colour way providing each piece with an aesthetic distinctive. They are professionally framed in box frames behind glass.

For more information on the Art Centre visit Council's internet site at <http://www.shoalhavenartscentre.com.au/index2.html>.

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The Shoalhaven City Arts Centre aims to promote and enrich the understanding of art and artistic endeavours in the Shoalhaven. It is supported through funding by the NSW Ministry for the Arts and the Australian Government Regional Partnerships Program.

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**What:** Memoires de France  
**Where:** Shoalhaven City Arts Centre 12 Berry St Nowra  
**When:** Gallery Hours 10am – 4pm Tuesday to Friday  
11am – 3pm Saturday, Closed Sundays and Mondays  
**CONTACT:** Arts and Events Manager Rachael French (02) 4429 3460

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