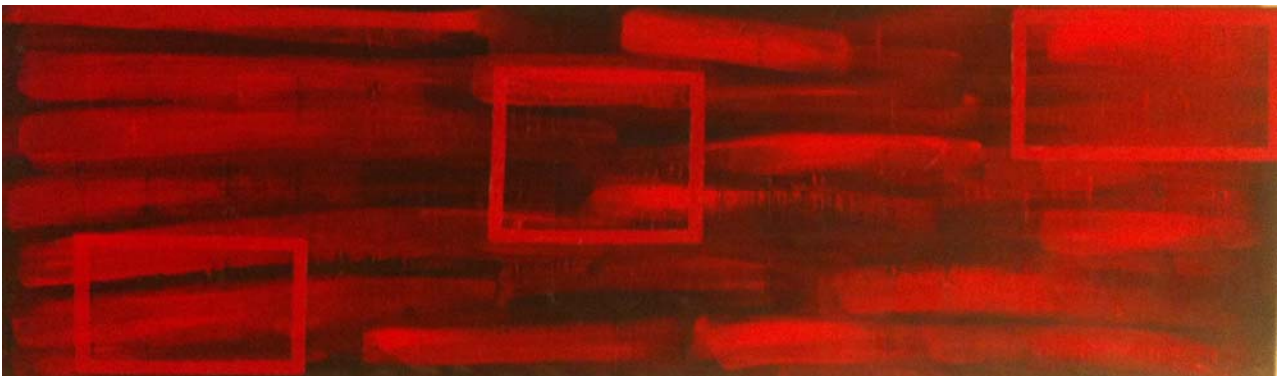


Artist statement - Stills of Life
Mr Burch Cafe, 129 McKinnon Road, McKinnon

Angel Calderon lives in McKinnon. He has lived in Australia for the past twenty six years. In 1985, Angel arrived in Melbourne after living in exile in several Latin American countries. He has chosen painting as well as poetry as the ideal form to express his emotions about conflict in his homeland (Guatemala), diaspora and his Australian journey.

“The paintings that I am exhibiting at Mr Burch manifest my belief that by stepping out of a life of normality it encourages me to bring a different narrative to the reading how life is intended to be pursued. A life of certainty brings complacency whereas uncertainty boosts creativity. Certainty has not been the norm in my life – rather an ephemeral passage that I idealise by the shape and form of the strokes which are latent in these paintings.”

These paintings are a journey within a journey. It is a narrative that is evolving with further challenges. Two of the paintings here are part of a forthcoming exhibition on exile, identity and memory.



Stills of Life. 2009. Acrylic on canvas. 114 x 38 cm.



The Lady Sick of Many Goodbyes (Red). 2011. Acrylic on canvas. 114 x 30 cm

Stills of Life – Angel Calderon, August 2011 (mob 0407 934 281)



Juxtaposition. 2010.
Acrylic on canvas.

Life matters. 2009.
Acrylic on canvas. 61 x 76 cm.



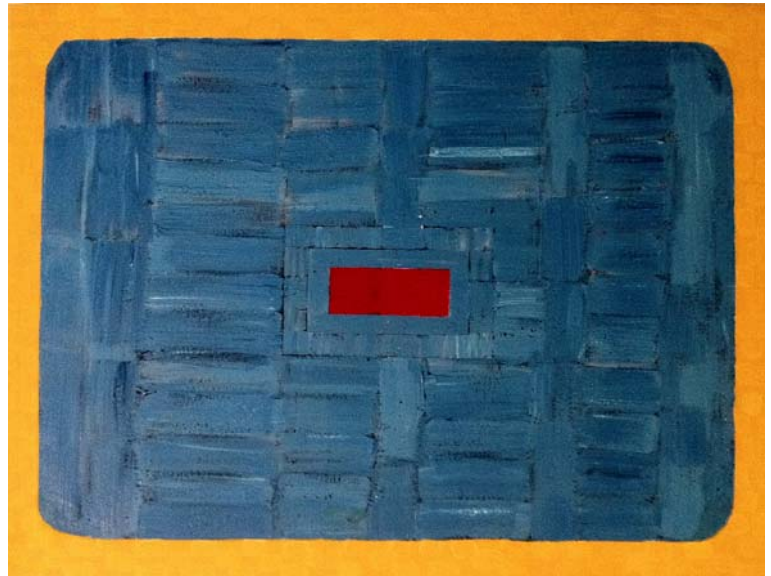
Isabela's spring. 2011.
Acrylic on canvas. 61 x 45.5 cm.

Stills of Life – Angel Calderon, August 2011 (mob 0407 934 281)



Remembering to forget, to live. 2010.
Acrylic on canvas. 61 x 45.5 cms.

Vagabond: A window to the heart. 2011.
Acrylic on canvas. 61 x 76 cm.



Hope is Verde. 2011. Acrylic on canvas. 51 x 41.5cms.

Stills of Life – Angel Calderon, August 2011 (mob 0407 934 281)



The Disappeared and the Informer. 2010.
Acrylic on canvas. 102 x 102 cms.

A window to the Unresolved. 2009.
Acrylic on canvas. 76 x 76 cms.



Somewhere in the land. 2011.
Acrylic on canvas. 51 x 40 cms.

Neighbours at war

Fencing disputes top the list of complaints in Kingston, figures show

Community | Dimity Barber

FORGET late-night parties and yapping dogs — fences are the leading cause of backyard feuds among Kingston neighbours. Dispute Settlement Centre of Victoria figures, released last week, show that repairing, replacing or agreeing to the cost of fences topped the list of complaints, with 97 calls during 2010-11.

The figures revealed 95 tiffs related to overhanging trees, 85 to bullying or intimidating behaviour and 27 to common or missing property.

Eleven calls were about noisy neighbours and 10 for barking dogs.

Centre manager Gina Ralston said the category with the second-highest number of calls across the state was the behaviour of adults.

"Often, the issues around adult behaviours are intertwined with, or result from, other neighbourhood disputes, such as fence disputes," Ms Ralston said.

"Fence disputes continue to cause the most friction between neighbours, particularly when there are disputes over sharing the costs towards the construction of a new fence."

Ms Ralston urged residents to

seek mediation to resolve neighbourhood spats. Mediation increases access to justice for those with limited financial means and reduces the costs to the courts, community and to the Victorian Government," she said. Ms Ralston said the centre's new website provided advice on how neighbours could reconcile their differences.

Details: disputes.vic.gov.au/dscv



Stills from an intriguing life

Angel Calderon with some of his paintings at Mr Burch Cafe in McKinnon.

Pictures: VALERIU CAMPAN N07M5503

Art | Teresa Murphy

MCKINNON'S Angel Calderon has a powerful story to tell, of exile and loss, hope and rebirth.

Now at 47, he has found a new voice to tell that story: through art.

Three years ago, Calderon didn't know how to use a paintbrush; this month, he is staging his first exhibition, *Stills of Life*, at Mr Burch Cafe (his local) in McKinnon.

These intriguing paintings reveal a complex talent executed in a naive style.

As with most art, knowing the inspiration and stories behind each work adds to their appreciation.

Calderon was forced to flee his troubled homeland of Guatemala in 1983. He had been a student leader at his secondary school and was warned to leave the country or face the same fate of his brother, who had disappeared in 1982 (and has never been found).

Calderon lived in Mexico, Honduras and Panama, working as a journalist, before settling in Australia in 1985 as a political refu-

gee. "All I knew was that it was a land free of conflict, a fairytale."

He was 21 and knew not a word of English; after a year of intensive language courses, he enrolled in university to study sociology.

Calderon is now a principal adviser in planning and research at RMIT University. He's also a poet and a proud father of three.

And now, a painter; a fascinating one at that.

■ *Stills of Life* is on at Mr Burch Cafe, 129 McKinnon Rd, McKinnon throughout this month. Works range from \$500 to \$2300.

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24 August 2011

Art and exile

The Guatemalan civil war lasted 36 years and more than 200,000 people were killed or disappeared.

RMIT University's Angel Calderon remembers the moment he realized he had to flee the country of his birth, Guatemala.

"Two armed men approached me. They said, 'Boy, leave the country or you will have the same fate as your brother'. He had disappeared five months earlier.

"Exile took me to Mexico, Honduras and Panama; eventually I settled in Australia," he said.

Mr Calderon landed in Melbourne on a cold and wet September morning in 1985 - the day before the Hawthorn-Essendon VFL grand final.

"I was neither able to speak nor understand English. There was no one to meet me at the airport," he said.

Twenty-five years later, Mr Calderon has a young family and a successful career in Policy and Planning at RMIT.

He has also tapped into a hidden talent - painting - with an exhibition attracting interest from media and arts circles.

Inspired by his life experiences, Mr Calderon found painting an accessible way to convey a message. He has also produced poems and essays.

"Painting has allowed me to blend cultures, heritage and common grounds between different and yet similar countries in that they have a rich cultural heritage with their indigenous population and are positioned in regions of cultural and artistic growth," he said.

Mr Calderon cites his influences as the Latin American and Spanish artists of modernism, as well as Australia's Sidney Nolan and the form of expression of Mirka Mora.

"I am actually considering one of RMIT's art programs," he said.

"RMIT has been a leader in the art, design and architecture fields with a world reputation, together with the strength of technology."

On the question of Latin America today, Mr Calderon - who returned to see his parents in 1999 - said Australia was becoming one of the preferred destinations for many Latin American students seeking to have an international student mobility experience.

"Almost 20,000 students from Latin American countries are studying in Australia," he said.

"The closer commercial links between Australia and Latin American countries, the greater the opportunities for Australia's educational exports."

'Stills of Life' exhibition is on at Mr Burch cafe, 129 McKinnon Rd, McKinnon until 31 August.

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Angel Calderon's colourful acrylics on canvas are on exhibition at Mr Burch cafe.

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