

Terrence J Hadler

I was born in Mildura in the Victorian Mallee in 1947 and lived all of my childhood years in rural Victoria, initially at Robinvale then Stanhope in the Goulbourn Valley and later Bacchus Marsh.

I was educated at Melbourne University taking an Honours Degree in Law. I practised in this field for some years before becoming completely disillusioned with the legal system, especially in its treatment of our Aboriginal brothers. Subsequently I quit this career and with my wife, Kathryn, travelled extensively throughout Europe and America.

During my time in the legal profession, I had commenced art lessons with well-known Menzies Creek artist, Richard Keith Gasson, and for a short time I was lucky enough to be tutored by the brilliant Victorian artist, Ambrose Griffin.

Returning to Australia in 1982 I commenced painting full-time, eventually shifting to Mt Martha on the Mornington Peninsula where I currently work and live.

My work has taken me through a roller coaster ride through styles and techniques. Initially I painted in a very traditional realist style influenced by my previous teachers. However, I found that over the years my focus changed to Australian Impressionism greatly affected by Charles Condor and Sir Arthur Streeton.

By chance, in 1996, I visited a Fred Williams retrospective exhibition and was overawed by the beauty in the simplicity, colour and design of his landscapes. This enlightening caused me to abandon a large degree of my style of work and concentrate on contemporary art. Heavily influenced by Fred Williams and Piet Mondrian (who so greatly influenced Fred Williams).

I now mainly paint very large canvasses in contemporary semi-abstract style. I concentrate in vivacity of colour, simple line and representational motifs to express my view of the Australian bush. However I feel that my journey is far from complete as I have fallen in love with the surrealist paintings of perhaps our greatest painter, Brett Whitely, and can see myself in the future exploring these directions.

My art is now spread worldwide and is sold in all capital cities in Australia, as well as many regional centres. Some notable sales of my art have been to Ex-President Jimmy Carter (U.S.A.), Mrs Anita Keating and recording legend, Slim Dusty.