

Glenyss Bourne



Since the beginning of time, art has had a spiritual significance and was often thought to have magical properties. Many medical scientists are recognising that inspirational art and music have therapeutic effects. Glenyss Bourne's works on display at the ***Walking with Angels*** Art Exhibition (from late November 2007 until Christmas) in Frankston, Victoria encapsulate this healing power. And it was Bourne's intention she has come a long, long way on her own personal journey. Her path was lined with challenges and had it not been for her faith, talent and determination, this exhibition would not have been possible. She tells **Colleen Bate** her story.



'Soar'

*Fly swiftly on the wings of Joy,
For all Eternity is Yours.
The migrating bird hesitates not,
leaps into the sky and follows its heart home.*



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Glenyss Bourne developed a love of painting and drawing at twelve years of age.

"I was first inspired to paint and draw when I was shown some of my beloved auntie's drawings as a young child. I copied pictures from books and then got my first paint set when I was eight or nine," she says, explaining how she painted landscapes in the bush around her grandparent's property in Langwarrin, Victoria.

"My great grandmother lived in Loch, a beautiful valley in Gippsland and we used to range around the hills together looking for beautiful views to paint."

Bourne trained as an Art Teacher and taught at Mornington High School in Victoria for a few years, leaving full time work to have a family. She expressed herself through ceramic sculpture as her children grew up, joining the Hastings Art and Craft Co-operative where she sold her work for many years.

Meditative experience

"I have always found art to be a meditative experience and have worked intuitively, simply beginning to sculpt or paint without any real idea of what I would finally produce. I then became interested in personal growth and alternative healing and began to make flower remedies and to teach reiki. At this point, my attitude to life and understanding of myself began to change."

Flower Essence healing became Glenyss' passion. She believed she had found her calling and was surprised when an idea came to her one night and she found herself painting an angel. Soon she felt the presence of a host of angels and as if in a dream, they spoke to her offering words of wisdom.

"One night, about fifteen years ago, I decided to experiment with watercolour painting. I had not painted with watercolours before but I experimented, then began to paint. I went into a meditation state (which I normally associate with creative activity) and I was able to access higher levels of vibrational light. In a matter of a few minutes I had produced a wonderfully expressive picture of an angel, then another.

"These paintings were totally different to any of my previous work and seemed to possess great power and energy. I took the paintings down to be copied and called into an esoteric bookshop and showed them to the owner. She commented on the tremendous energy of the paintings and immediately bought some to sell. I later scanned them into my computer and began to play around with them using the Ulead iPhoto program that came with the scanner. I basically just played with the program, learning as I went along.

Digital manipulation

"People loved the paintings and started buying them. I scanned them and started to manipulate them digitally, experimenting with forms and colours. My daughter saw these paintings and encouraged me to make some Angel Cards. I made an unwilling attempt to create them digitally, and at first single words for the cards came to me, then phrases, then longer, more profound phrases. Something was not right. I felt I needed to change the cards, perhaps to make them bigger. I consulted with my daughter and she agreed. I sat at the computer and cleared my mind. Phrases tumbled out so fast that my poor typing abilities could hardly cope. The messages started out as simple words of wisdom but seemed so profound and moving to me that tears rolled down my cheeks as I struggled to keep up with them. Then the messages expanded and became longer and more complex. I stopped and said to myself 'these won't fit on my cards.' I then heard a voice filled with the lilting joy of laughter say to me 'Its a book!'"

Most of the words of wisdom, (the *Angelic Messages*), were written on that day and a few have come later.



Bourne then began to paint angels to go with the messages. The book took over her life.

"I would paint all night, sometimes I didn't sleep at all for two days at a time without feeling any fatigue at all. Sacred Wisdom was born!"

"The combination of the words and pictures together in the book is quite powerful. The message carried by the illustration, together with the words of wisdom given, can work at a deep level to help to change old unwanted negative thought patterns, and help to ease fears and emotional distress to help with healing at a deeply spiritual level."

Painting with light

"I chose to paint digitally because in essence I was painting with light, and the purity and clarity of the colours help to capture the essence of the angels' energy. I had no previous experience in the field of computer generated images, but was completely guided by the angels.

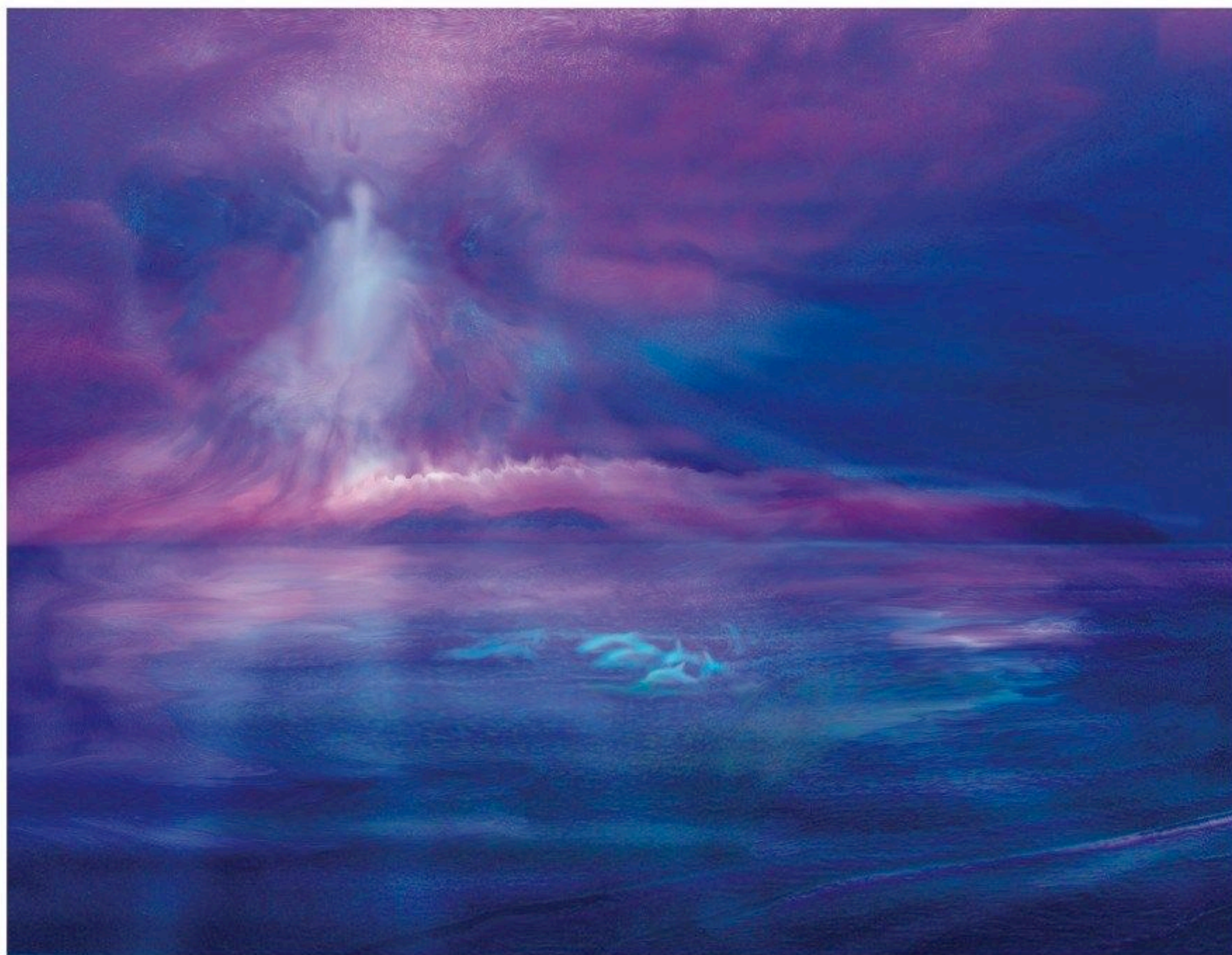
Bourne loves the convenience of working with digital artwork as the original can easily be reproduced in different sizes on paper or on canvas, depending on what the purchaser requires. This makes her originals affordable to almost anyone. All of her *Angelic Artwork* is reproduced with archival materials using the Giclée process.

She individually hand prints, activates, signs and dates each print and provides Certificates of Authenticity for each large painting.

She has chosen not to do limited editions as she believes artwork is a therapeutic tool rather than a collectors item.

Bourne clearly loves digital painting and printing. "The colours are so pure and vibrant and the possibilities are endless. I use Photoshop but I still paint mostly with the

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paintbrushes – I don’t use many of the sophisticated tools but I keep playing and experimenting and getting better.”

A profound journey

Since the flower of healing and love opened in her heart, Bourne’s journey has been profound. She believed her knowledge would take her on an upward journey.

To her astonishment she was taken into levels of illness and suffering where at times she despaired of any return to good health.

Bourne had struggled with Crones Disease for many years and had managed it fairly well with reiki, yoga and flower remedies until it flared up after an emotional upset in 2002. She underwent bowel surgery with devastating consequences.

“After five unsuccessful operations which left me with a perforated bowel and nine months in hospital I was finally sent home to die, with no hope of recovery. However, I never lost faith, Hundreds of people from churches, yoga ashram’s and friends and family sent me healing and I could feel its effects. I could feel the angels with me, helping me to stay positive in the midst of incredible pain and suffering.

“Finally we found a wonderful a surgeon who repaired the damage to my bowel successfully.”

This period of Bourne’s life gave her incredible insight into the enduring spirit of the human being. Her belief in the body’s ability to heal and her hopes, optimism, and faith had been pushed to unbearable limits, but somehow she found the strength to persevere, and against all odds completely recovered to full health. Today she has greater energy levels, happiness, and health than she could ever have imagined and it is with her incredible enthusiasm, indisputable inner wisdom, and willingness to fully participate in the healing of the earth and its inhabitants that she offers Anaheart creations and her Inspirational Angelic Artwork.

“I now I look at life differently. Serious illness shows you irrevocably what is important in life. When you face the prospect of your own death it becomes clear that although what you have achieved in life is important, it is the regrets about the things you really wanted to do but didn’t, that need to be addressed. I now live life to the full. I no longer put things off, instead I attend to them immediately.

“Before my illness I dreamed of printing big angels but felt it was out of reach, Now I not only print big angels but dream of a 60 inch printer too.”

Bourne is not too far away from achieving this dream. She currently outputs her work on a Canon Prograf 8400 44 inch printer, purchased from Imedia.

“Be prepared that it will take some time to learn the idiosyncrasies of your printer. Buy from a reputable dealer who offers support ... most importantly, don't give up. You will eventually get the results you want

Trial and error

“It has taken me over a year and a lot of wasted media to get close to the results I want. I have mainly learnt by trial and error and persistence. It is my continuing struggle to reproduce what I see on my screen accurately. I print and then re-paint until I get the desired result.”

She recently purchased an Onyx Gama Print Rip which she feels has made a great difference to the subtle gradations of colour required. Prior to this she used an Qimage which she says was acceptable but lacked the subtlety she wanted to achieve.

Bourne has found Giclée Media's Premium Canvas to be very good when used with Qimage. Although she experienced a few problems with the media when used with the Onyx RIP, she has discovered an improvement (through trial and error) by means of the Adhesive Vinyl Profile in the RIP. She has also had very good results using Imedia's Magic Poly Cotton Canvas via the Canon Canvas profile in the RIP.

She imparts the following advice to artists starting out with Giclée printing:

“Be prepared that it will take some time to learn the idiosyncrasies of your printer. Buy from a reputable dealer who offers support because you will probably need it . And most importantly, don't give up. You will eventually get the results you want.”

Bourne believes that colour profiles are extremely important. “Ensure that the media company you deal with provides you with the correct profiles. Talk to other artists, photographers and printers – it is amazing the simple things you can learn from your peers.

“Do your research before buying a giclée printer, check out the online forums. They can give great insights into the strengths and weaknesses of each printer and the type of software you may need to purchase.”

Towards the future

Bourne is currently working on the *Angels in Nature* series: painting images of nature, combining them with the energy of the angels and devas (nature spirits) to produce the same energetic qualities of the Angel Artwork. This makes these high energy paintings accessible to everybody, not just those who relate to angels.

“The form of the painting is not so important, that is fairly simple. It is the interplay of the colours and the energies they represent and the feelings the paintings engender that is important.”

It is also her goal to educate designers, architects and the committees who make important decisions in creating healing environments to use art and colours in a therapeutic way to support healing.

Many palliative care hospitals have music therapy departments but unfortunately the artwork in many health care environments is chosen by designers not therapists as decor with little thought for its intrinsic inspirational and therapeutic benefits.

“I now understand the importance of life giving, nurturing, inspirational images in challenging environments such as hospitals and aged care centres..

“My journey would not be complete if I neglect to use the experience I have gained, the artwork I have created and the love in my heart to assist in this cause,” concludes Bourne.

Sanctuary Angel Gallery is to the public on Thursdays Fridays and Sundays. Visitors can use the meditation rooms or simply browse and enjoy the energies. For further details, contact +613 5978 6484 or +61 (0)438 59786484 (www.anaheart.com).