



Truth with Dancer, Oil on linen (larger version), 134 x 78.5 cm, 2005

WORDDED IMAGE

BEFORE AND AFTER RUSSIA

Exhibition runs May 2nd – 20th 2006. Opening Tuesday May 2nd from 5.30 pm.

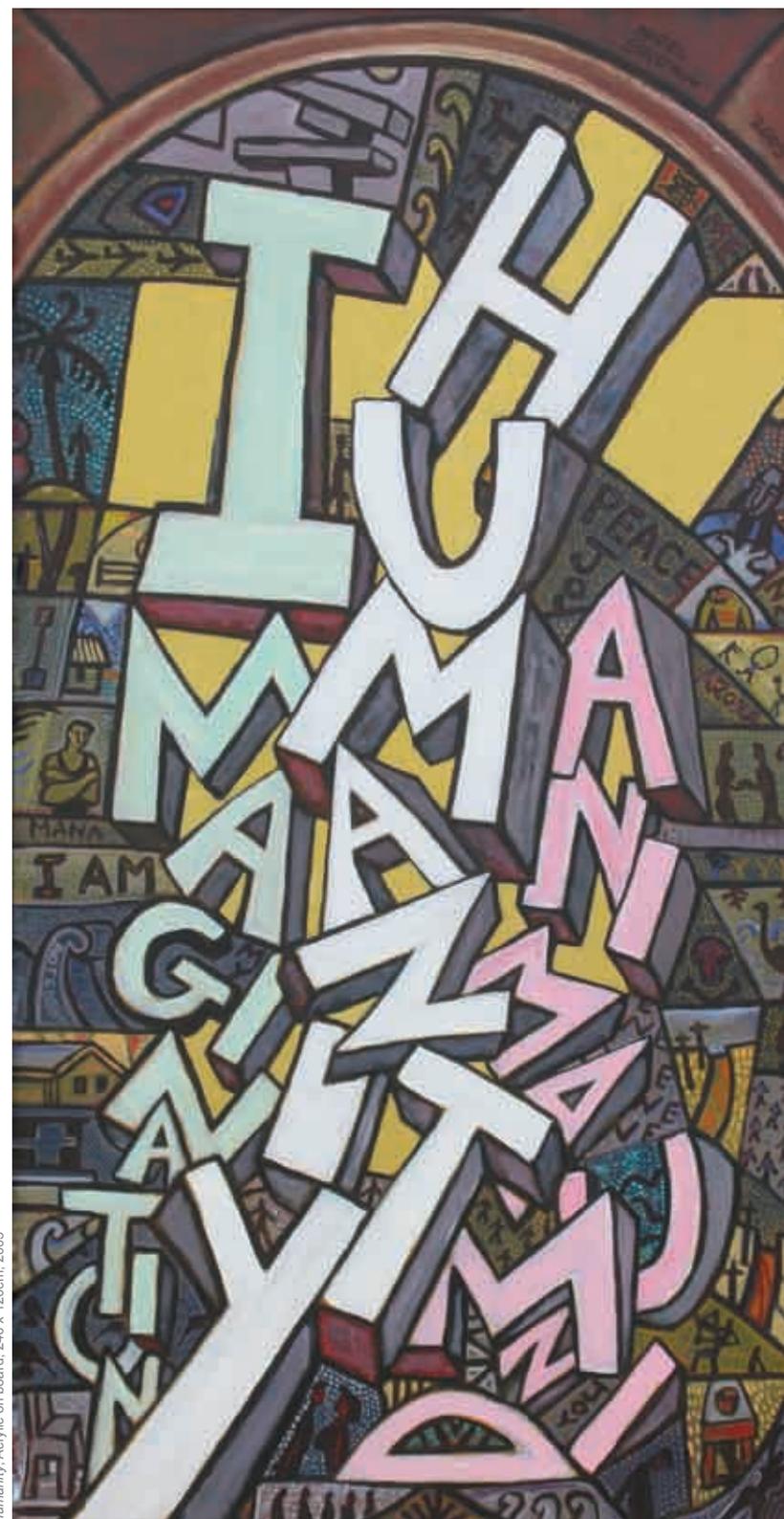
1. *You Bloody Beauty*, Acrylic on canvas, 240 x 99cm, 2005
2. *At Peace with Yah Self*, Oil on linen, 133.5 x 79cm, 2005
3. *At Peace with Herself*, Oil on linen, 134 x 79cm, 2005
4. *Three*, Oil on linen, 134.5 x 79cm, 2005
5. *Humanity*, Acrylic on board, 240 x 120cm, 2005
6. *Hammer & Saw*, Oil on board, 119 x 78cm, 2005
7. *Saw*, Oil on board, 119 x 78cm, 2005
8. *Joy, Happiness, Luck* (Larger version), Oil on linen, 134 x 79cm, 2005
9. *Joy Happiness Luck*, Acrylic on board, 78 x 58.5cm, 2005
10. *Breakthrough Triptych*, Acrylic on canvas, 179 x 79cm, 2005
11. *Joy with Us*, Oil on canvas, 29.5 x 21cm, 2005
12. *I Exist*, Oil on canvas, 29.5 x 21cm, 2005
13. *Integrity*, Acrylic on board, 78.5 x 58.5cm, 2005
14. *Truth with Dancer*, Oil on linen (larger version), 134 x 78.5cm, 2005
15. *Box*, Oil on linen (triptych), 179 x 79cm, 2005
17. *Truth & Lies*, Oil on canvas, 29.5 x 21cm, 2005
18. *Joy at Pahia*, Oil on canvas, 29.5 x 21cm, 2005
19. *Integrity (larger version)*, Oil on linen, 134 x 79cm, 2005



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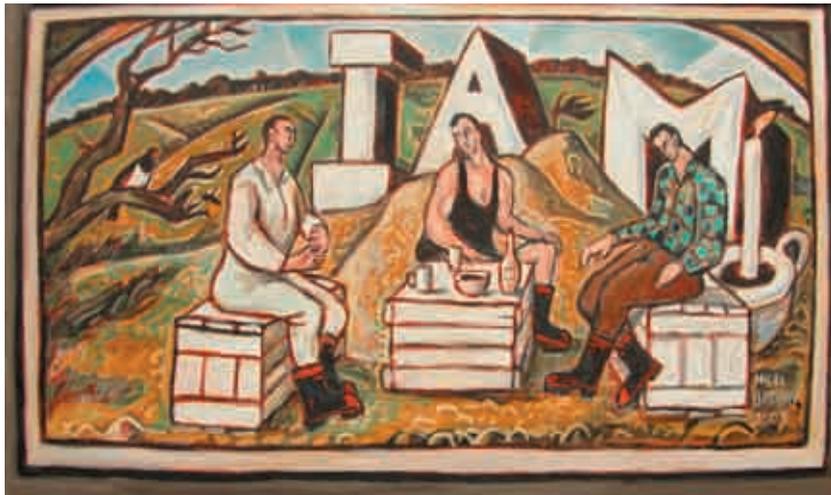


Humanity, Acrylic on board, 240 x 120cm, 2005

WORDDED IMAGE

BEFORE AND AFTER RUSSIA

NIGEL BROWN



Three, Oil on linen, 134.5 x 79 cm, 2005



At Peace with Yah Self, Oil on linen, 133.5 x 79 cm, 2005



At Peace with Her Self, Oil on linen, 134 x 79 cm, 2005

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BEFORE AND AFTER RUSSIA

This new body of work refers to Nigel Brown's experiences before and after his 2005 post as artist in residence in Russia. Brown's research and time in Russia has produced some insightful and typically poignant observations. A first time venture into severe schematism has produced a strong work in *Breakthrough*, although most of the paintings remain firmly fixed in Brown's bold and direct style. This new series inspired by his journey to Russia and return home confirms the artist's identity not only as an original artist, but his identity as a New Zealander.

With paintings such as *At Peace with Yah Self* and *Three* a celebratory pioneering spirit is apparent in these depictions of rural life in a Southland landscape. The South Island surrounds of Brown's environment are repeated throughout the series along with Brown's familiar symbolism and figures. As the title of the show suggests, text is a dominant (optimistic and positive) structural statement, incorporating *Truth, Integrity, and Joy Happiness and Luck*.

Warwick Henderson 2006

ARTIST'S NOTES

YOU BLOODY BEAUTY 2005

This painting evolved before my Russian journey and was originally quite Spartan. Following my return from Russia, the central detail was added to the pot. In Jan 2006 I worked with Barry Brickell on a collaborative piece and worked in clay myself. In this painting Pahia Hill forms a backdrop to the painting with the iconic wood pigeon and structural "I Am" in the landscape. The vase sits on a table with the vernacular banner title at the top of the painting.

THREE 2005

The general grouping is inspired by Andrei Rublev's *Holy Trinity* of the 1420's. I have also used an "I am" drawn from McCahon and a candle in what amounts to a secular arrangement of men with spiritual overtones. The boxes are based on white painted boxes I use in my studio – old crates actually. Pahia Hill appears behind.

HUMANITY 2005

This painting started before the Russian journey when it was evolving in a Spartan way with three concepts clear to me, namely "Humanity" "Imagination" and "Anima Mundi" which is the Latin name for "soul of the world". Upon my return from Russia, and seeing icons and the Kremlin Treasury perhaps I threw in allsorts of glittery motifs into the painting to make it more lavish.

AT PEACE WITH YAH SELF 2005

This was painted after my return from Russia. The man is based on myself and the background is drawn from my Cosy Nook property. The cow shed and building in the background are based on my new studio. The composition and central figure is drawn from Larionov's *The Relaxing Soldier* of 1911, but I've given the man a New Zealand identity with gumboots etc.

AT PEACE WITH HERSELF 2005

This is the female version of *At Peace with Yah Self* which includes a wood pigeon. The composition is after Larionov's *The Relaxing Soldier* of 1911.

TRUTH (WITH DANCER) 2005

Obviously with a work like this I was building upon my study of Colin McCahon but there are elements within this work that are typical of my work; notably the small figure and the ladder. My search beyond McCahon has led me to words selected for either a philosophical or vernacular significance. Humans are small within these large words and the words also function as questions. The words remain relevant.

SAW AND HAMMER AND SAW 2005

These two paintings were inspired by the paintings of Eugeny Rastorguev. I've focussed on the kind of figure you might have seen around Cosy Nook in the 20th century perhaps. This work is Spartan and iconic. I used a white ground giving a paler feel. It is perhaps interesting that the builders working on our property used nail guns and electric throw away saw blades which didn't interest me at all. Items such as handsaws are embraced by me as essential elements of a New Zealand experience which is disappearing. I wanted to express this now.

Nigel Brown 2006



You Bloody Beauty, Acrylic on canvas, 240 x 99cm, 2005



Saw, Oil on board, 119 x 78 cm, 2005