

S u n s h i n e C o a s t

# xpressions

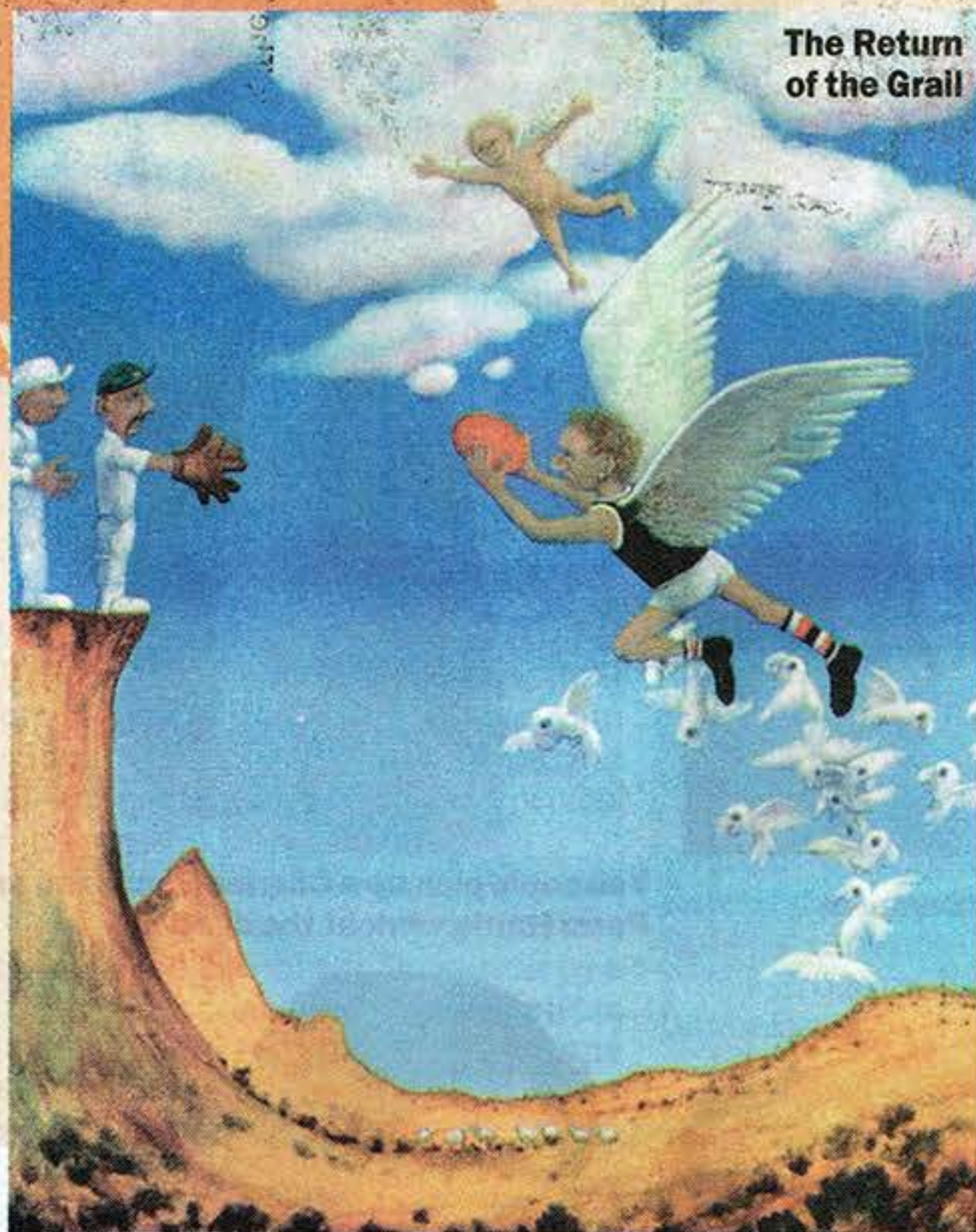
of Fine Art  
& Specialised  
Craft

AUTUMN 2000

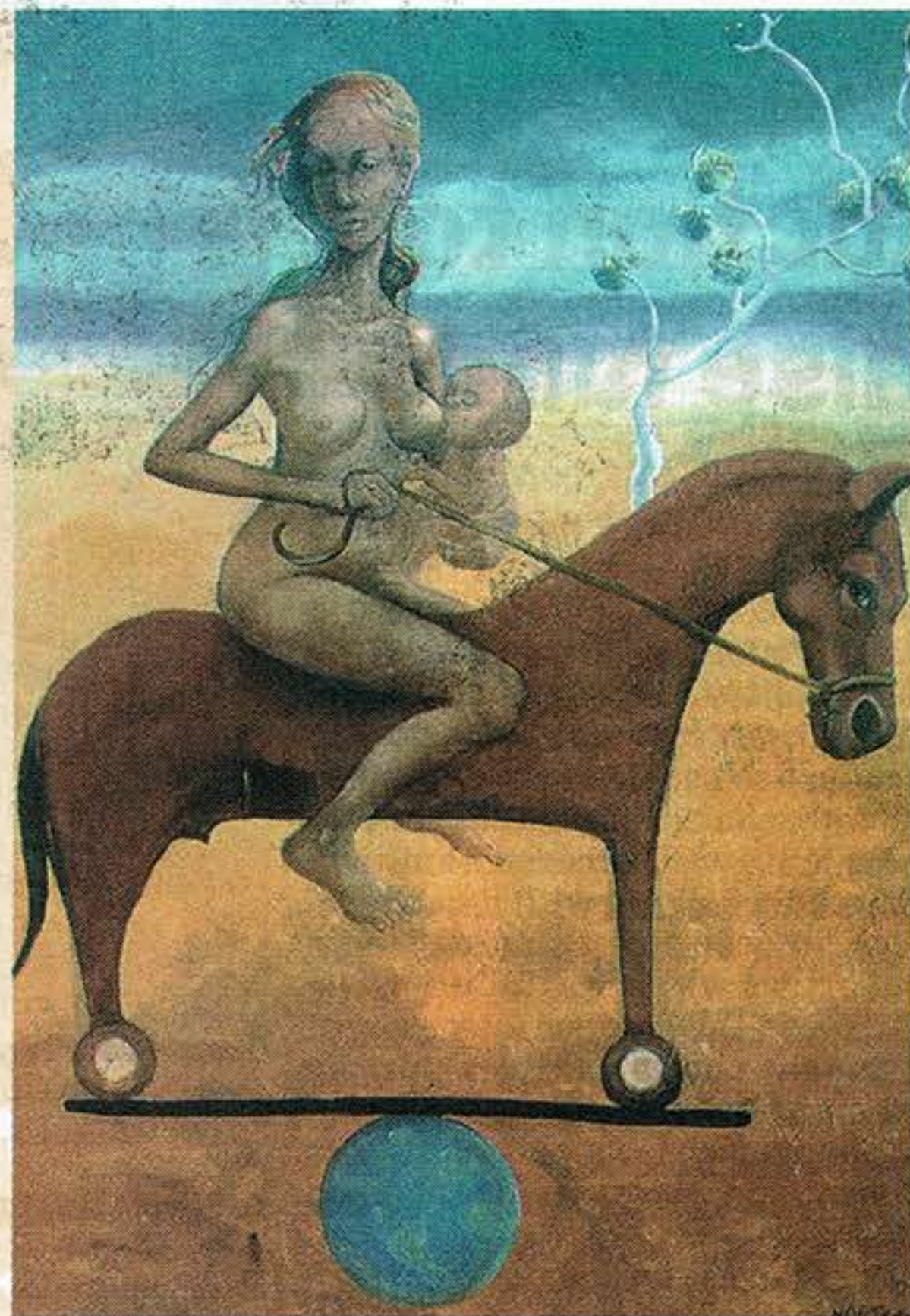
- Paper artist Christine Ballinger issues a challenge
- Emerging artist Janelle Owen shows us her work
- Michael Taylor back in Montville with his leather masks
- Noosa Regional Gallery holds a fund raising auction

Sunshine Coast  
**Sunday**



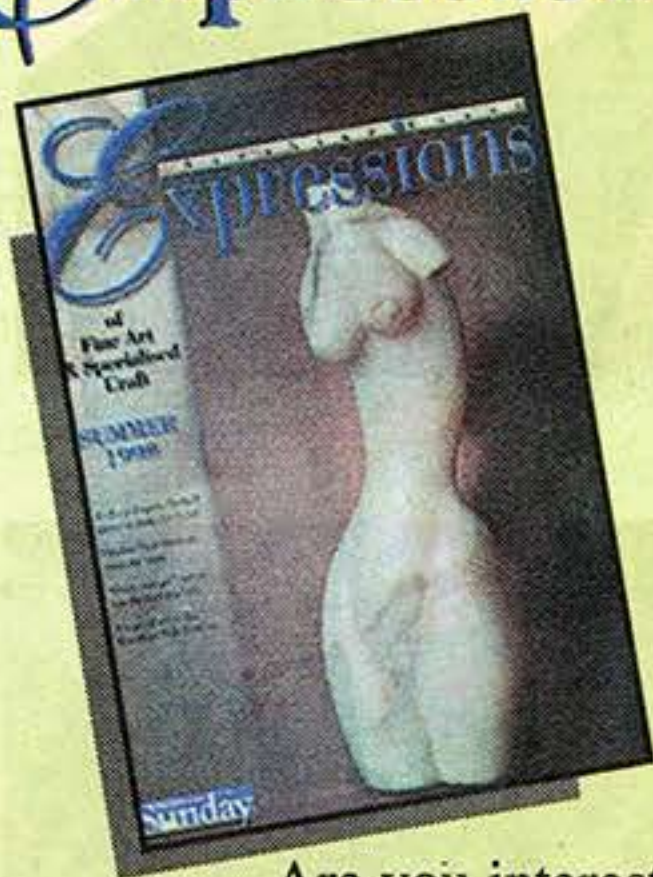


The Return of the Grail



Pure Truth

## Sunshine Coast Expressions



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## Greenery seduces WA artists

By ANN RICKARD

WE all know the Sunshine Coast Hinterland is a lure for creative and talented people, and now it has seduced yet another exceptional artist to set up home and take up brush here.

Helen Norton has lived in the North West of Australia since 1986. She works with all mediums to express the human condition and the relationships with all things we encounter in the world today.

Luckily for us, she is tired of living in the 'brown and arid' land and wants some green — hence the move from Broome to the Sunshine Coast.

"I have been living in remote regions of Australia for 20 years and I really feel like a change and want to get close to my public," she said. "I have a following in Melbourne, Sydney and London but have not explored Queensland.

"I like the attitude of Queensland and that's another part of it."

With an extraordinary background that includes earning her living rabbit and fox shooting in the Simpson desert to working as a cook on the Nullabor



Helen Norton

Plain, Helen Norton began painting part time in 1984 and full time in 1986 after she moved to Broome.

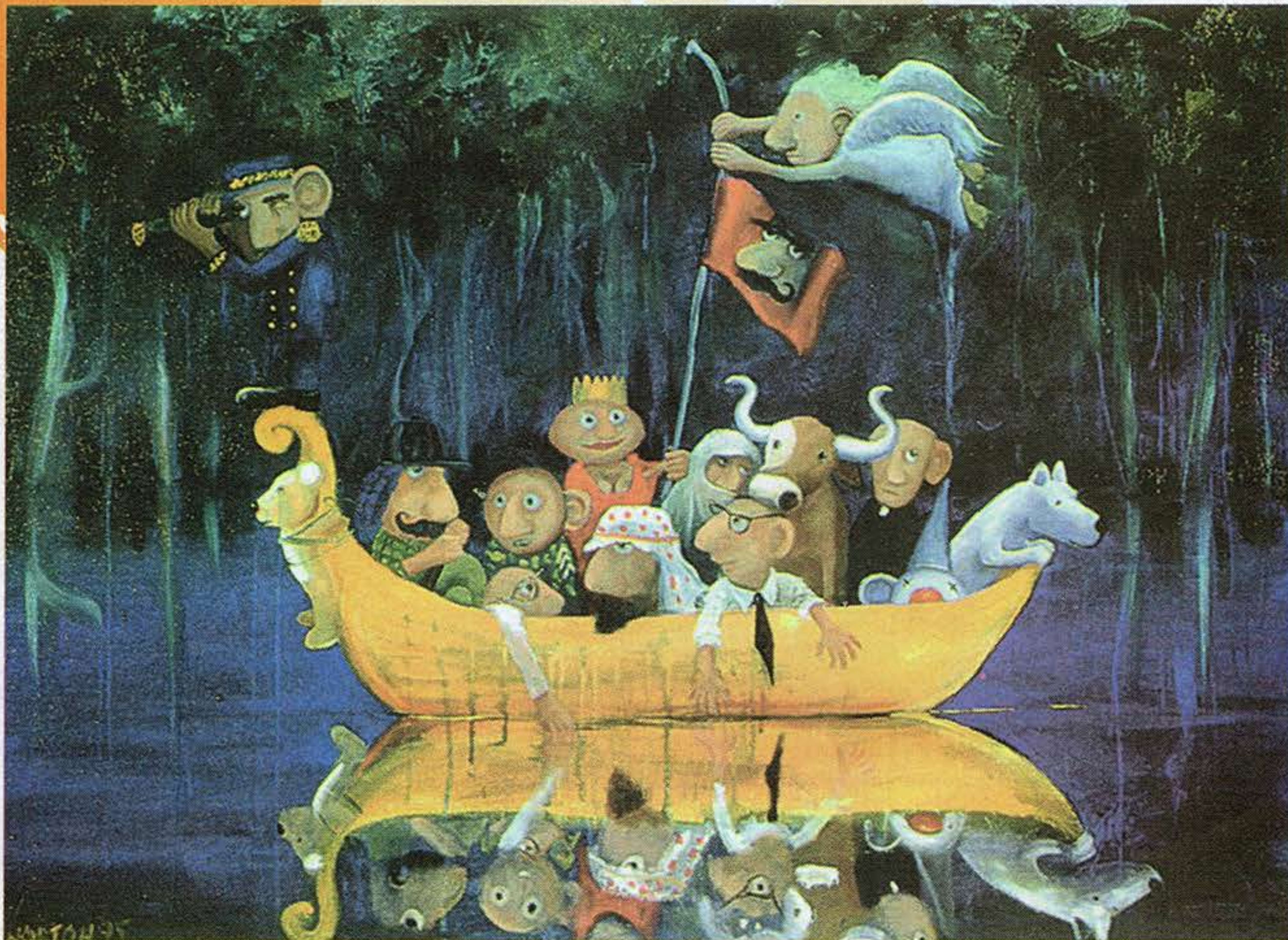
Her biography and list of exhibitions and awards is quite awesome and will be the focus of a future story when she arrives here in July/August. For the moment it is enough to tease you with just this small range of some of her work.

Helen has already opened her store for her Cockatoo Gallery in the Village Square in Montville, sending some of her staff ahead to set up.

"The Cockatoo Gallery is my own gallery," she said. "The focus is on making art affordable for all budgets as opposed to the usual art gallery policy of 'only original works' with sometimes 'original prices.'

"I am bringing my whole team to Montville. We are quite a close knit group with our own framing and administration sections. We have made art into a business. I have sent staff to open up before I get there later in the year, and we will employ two local ladies."





**The Ship of Fools, above, and, below, The Shooter.**

Helen says she is looking forward to green scenes after years of painting brown scenes from the outback.

As well as being an artist of exceptional talent she is a smart business woman with an original approach.

"As an artist I do also enjoy high prices for my work but decided a few years ago that it was a shame that so many of the admirers of my work could not afford a piece of the action to take home and enjoy.

"It felt right to me so with my team we began the process of opening our own shops, taking art into a shop as opposed to a gallery atmosphere.

"The Cockatoo Gallery has two stores in Broome and one in Perth, and now one in Montville, all doing well and I'm having a great time seeing people laugh and enjoy accessing the art in affordable prints, cards and other things they can use.

"We are really looking forward to moving to Montville. There are things you can buy for \$2 or you can lash out and spend \$10,000 on a major original. There is deliberately a lot in between."

