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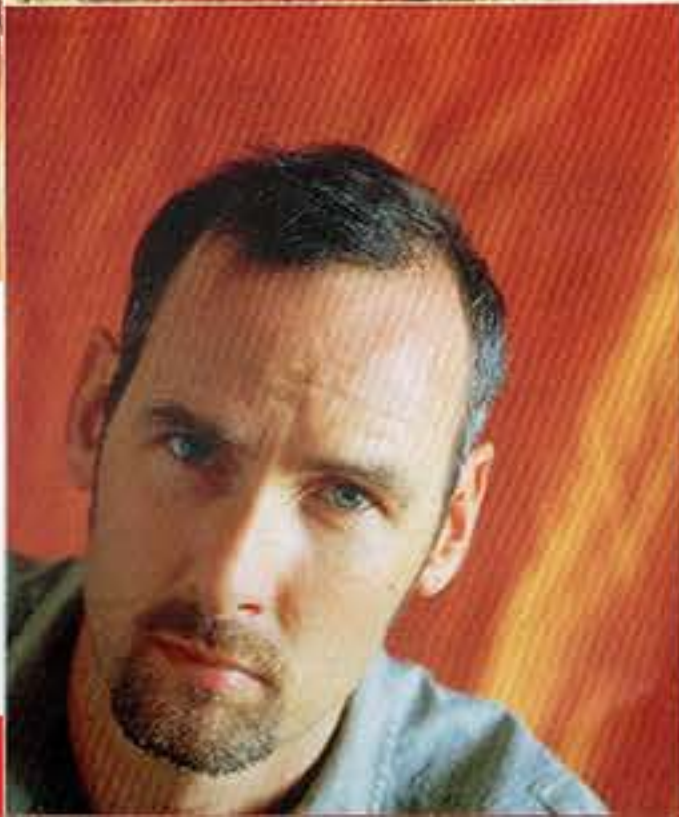
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ArtwithWings

HELEN NORTON is painting and writing in Vanuatu. Lucky Helen.

Meanwhile Paul Gullotti is sharing the fruits of her previous labours with the world, via the Cockatoo Gallery with its bases in Murray Street, Perth and Dampier Terrace, Broome.

Helen taught herself to paint and in 1985, after ten years of roaming the outback working as a cook, game shooter, jillaroo, station hand and truck driver, she settled in Broome to become an artist ~ pouring her extraordinary visions out onto canvases with rich colours and poignant simplicity.

She has been extremely successful. Her work touches people's hearts and makes them smile. As a measure of her success, the Sydney-

based owner of her work Ship of Fools recently turned down a \$22,500 offer.

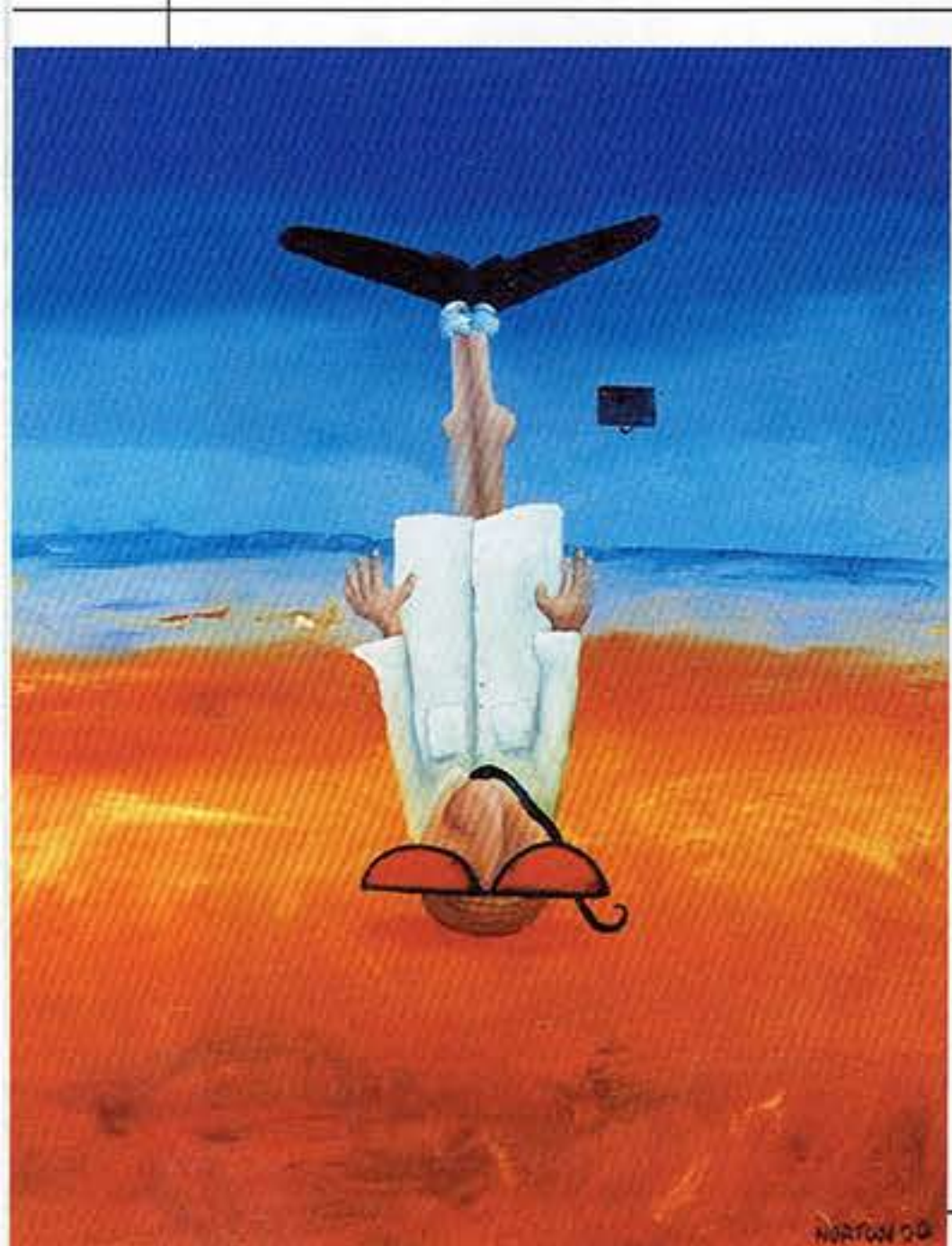
Paul Gullotti was running a handcrafted furniture shop from his Murray Street location when he met Helen two years ago. He was impressed and put some of her paintings in his shop. Six sold in the first week and before long he had bought her gallery in Broome and transformed his shop into the second Cockatoo Gallery.

Paul has since helped Helen to transform many of her works into products to please people without the budgets to buy large works. Helen is one of very few local artists whose work has been registered and turned into postcards, gift tags, greeting cards, t-shirts and mousepads. Paul is selling

these through the gallery as well as through newsagents and giftshops and he's starting to push into the Eastern states market ~ reflecting Helen's status as a national treasure.

Cockatoo Gallery, which remains unique in its dedication to the work of just one artist, also sells a range of prints, limited edition reproductions and original works.

Asked why he has dedicated his business to Helen's work, Paul says it's because he's a true believer in the mysterious something that shines through her work. He also likes to be able to talk to his customers about the person behind the paintings. It's a personal touch that he thinks makes the art more meaningful to the people who hang it in their homes. ■



Pants off. Helen Norton, 2000, oil on Belgium linen

Knock knock. Helen Norton, 2000, oil on Belgium linen