



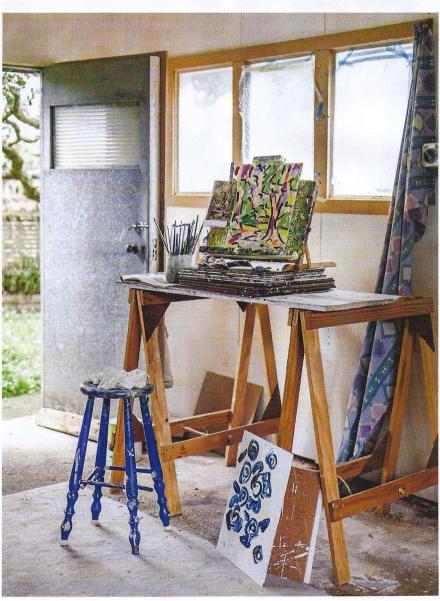




ABOVE Kirstin in her Mt Roskill studio, at the back of her parents' garden. TOP CENTRE AND RIGHT Works in rapid progress. RIGHT The spot with the best light is, of course, where it all happens.

KIRSTIN CARLIN'S HEAVY BRUSHstrokes and dreamy imagery blend
together to create works of mystical
realism. Inspired to re-imagine historical
still-lifes, the Auckland painter's smallscale impasto works showcase floral
arrangements and landscapes. But
Kirstin's work, which seems familiar at
first, soon distorts into something new
and unexpected as the path you thought
you recognised begins to twist and the
landscape you thought you understood
becomes unhinged.

On the challenge she sets herself to give new life to commonly portrayed images, Kirstin says: "I like to play around with subjects which are recognisable from painting's history and ones that have become ubiquitous through reproductions in calendars, mouse pads, framed prints and stuff like that. Working from an image which is highly recognisable lets me get carried away with the paint and formal elements." \triangleright



STYLE Artist profile









ABOVE LEFT The paintings keep piling up as work is discarded and new pieces created in the lead up to the Pleasure Garden exhibition. ABOVE CENTRE Mixing; purposefully not matching. ABOVE RIGHT A collection of cards and images of Matisse's Fauvist works serve as references. LEFT Hanging works up to dry has the added benefit of allowing Kirstin to literally sit with them, deciding which need altering.

Each of Kirstin's paintings exhibits strong gestural lines. And the offbeat colour combinations and introduction of pastels to her latest offerings are a move inspired by Matisse's Fauvist works.

Having challenged herself to use "fruitier", less monochrome combinations, Kirstin's upcoming exhibition Pleasure Garden will exhibit landscapes that could be "anywhere, everywhere and nowhere". A contemporary nod to historical public pleasure gardens, the landscapes intend to give the viewer a feeling of something special and somewhere familiar - with each painting, at second glance, speaking of the importance of adventure and play.

Pleasure Garden will run until August 22 at the Melanie Roger Gallery in Auckland. kirstincarlin.com