



# iefje Boissevain

**Who are you and what do you do?**

I am a self-taught artist (painter) who works with a wide range of mediums. I also have my own gallery, UnderArt Gallery, in Spence St, where I share my space with many other local artists.

**Why do you do what you do?**

I am absolutely passionate about art and creating anything new. I love the diversity and endless imagination of other artists, which is why I opened UnderArt Gallery almost four years ago.

**How do you work?**

Usually on three or five different projects at a time, as many works are very layered and take a lot of time. I work in a great, dedicated space (actually I pinched my husband's shed while he was away fishing) on our rural property near Gordonvale. Here I am isolated from the outside world. I have my music and very often a glass of champagne or red wine nearby – it's when some of my best work is created.

**What's your background?**

A very interesting youth, with an eccentric, entrepreneurial father and well-balanced mother have made me who I am. I have evolved through persistence and always curious to experiment with new concept and mediums.

**What's integral to the work of an artist?**

To be unique and challenge your own ability at all times and to be proud and happy with the end result.

**What work do you most enjoying doing?**

At present I am addicted to anything to do with resin, gold and silver leaf and mixed media – the ideas are endless and the days too short.

**What jobs have you done other than being an artist?**

Strangely enough I have never had a job since the day I left school! I have always successfully managed to make a living from creating something out of nothing and that is the ultimate.

**Is the artistic life lonely? What do you do to counteract it?**

Artistic life can be very lonely, but not for myself. Most of the time artists work in isolation, which I actually look forward to. The rest of the time I am interacting with potential buyers (in my gallery) who give honest feedback, often without them knowing I am the artist. I like it this way so you know their comments are sincere.

**What's the best piece of advice you've been given?**

To step outside your comfort zone and experiment. A quote that I love and describes my attitude to life is, 'even if you think you are on the right track, you will get run over if you just sit there'.

**What's your goal?**

Personally to keep painting interesting contemporary works that continue to be bought and appreciated by many and sent worldwide. Business-wise, to continue supporting other artists and growing UnderArt gallery into a place that people will visit over and over again as there is always something new and interesting.