

The COFFS HARBOUR Advocate



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Coffs Harbour Christian artist Jeffrey Baker said . . . 'the use of our imagination should never be restricted or hindered'. He is set to exhibit at Parliament House, Canberra, on Saturday.

Photo: TREVOR VEALE

Christian prophecy realised

COFFS HARBOUR Christian artist Jeffrey Baker had a prophecy in March that he would exhibit in front of parliamentarians this year.

He thought it sounded too good to be true, but the dream is set to become a reality when six of his paintings go up for exhibition at Parliament House, Canberra, on Saturday.

Aptly titled *The Great South Land Exhibition*, it will be officially opened by Transport and Regional Services Minister, Mr John Anderson, at 4pm on Sunday and will end on

November 29.

Mr Baker will be joined by five other Christian artists in the exhibition, including the likes of Pro Hart and Brookvale Christian City Church pastor Phil Pringle.

It is one of numerous mixed displays he has done around Australia in the past 15 or so years.

Born in Cowra, New South Wales, in April, 1953, Jeffrey Baker is a self-taught artist who has become known for his vibrant, surrealist acrylic canvas or board paintings.

By ALDWYN ALTUNEY

He uses an open mind approach to his art work, basing his inspiration on his observations of life in the natural and man-made environments.

'I create an overview in many forms, combining the visual spectacle of life with the qualities of our landscape, object, vision, colour, line and balance,' Mr Baker said.

'The themes and ideas cultivated over my career are moving closer towards a

sense of appreciation and maturity to what I believe is the core within, to express and develop paintings of a greater understanding and purpose.

'I'm continually drawn to the magnitude of this continent Australia in its many diverse forms and characteristics. My desire as an artist is to grasp a feeling for this land and to portray its uniqueness.'

Multi-dimensional settings, where symmetrical shapes are used to highlight natural objects such as rocks or plants, are common in his

paintings.

Some of his work has sold for up to \$4500, however most of his sales come through commissioned work or personal exhibitions.

'I've always been creative and I realised that this is what I should be pursuing in life,' Mr Baker said.

'The use of our imagination should never be restricted or hindered.'

'Freedom of expression and the understanding in one's ability is a lifetime goal we should all try to achieve, in the gifts we have been given from God.'