

Svein Koningens "living gallery" in Noosa, Queensland Australia is an introduction and immersion into the actuality of lifestyle and art. For this living gallery is a home, a gallery, a lifestyle: it is an almost tangible dynamic fusion of art and daily living – and successfully showcases one of Australia's few successful abstract expressionist artist's ethos and work.

The life of Svein Koningen is intriguing and here is a continuing journey that seems to parallel Svein's cosmopolitan cultural background. Born to a Norwegian mother, although he says "many ask whether I am Swedish"; and a Dutch father, Svein's family lived first in Amsterdam then took a cultural and geographic leap to Geelong, Australia.

Having completed his secondary schooling Svein spent a summer in a gift shop and was about to continue in a world of retail when he discovered the idea of industrial design and so set off to art school. He excelled academically albeit with a glitch of feisty European independence and determination to think outside the box. Perhaps the genes of a Dutch father working in Norway during the war, with the underground movement were finding expression in the next generation.

Noosa seems to suit Svein and he to it. He has achieved substantial success and recognition throughout Australia and across the Americas, Asia and Europe.

"I always maintained my passion for art throughout the years in business, drawing and experimenting with many different mediums and styles. It was abstract expressionism that eventually drew me away from realism, as it is the one style of painting that truly

allows the artist to reveal their personality through spontaneity," Svein says.

Svein's work is abstract expressionist. There are canvasses hungry, swirling, gutsy, trowelled and grafted with vibrant colour & energy. The artist says he works with intense physicality, always to music and like one of the forefathers to abstract expressionism in America, Jackson Pollack, also works with the canvasses in a horizontal position.

For Svein, inspiration is found in the process painting

and the of development and exploration and again, following in the tradition of Jackson Pollack, he is a high octane painter and drips, splashes, using layers of paint, palette knives, trowels and sweeping movements.

"While I may begin a painting with the vision of a certain colour or a specific theme, I never really know exactly what form the finished canvas will take. I simply allow my instinct to guide my hands and draw inspiration from the process of creation."

"The one constant in my work is my expression of vibrant colour and energy". The artist says he wants to take people out of their everyday life and create an ongoing frisson of energy and colour. Sometimes, Svein feels there is a connectedness between our soul's journey in this life and the expressions that appear on canvass. However, the artist is categorical in attesting that there is no political or social statement in his work.

Perhaps this imbue ment of life, vitality and essence of soul, rhythm and stunning vibrant colour provides a clue to the value and desirability that domestic and international clients place on Svein Koningens' works.

SVEIN KONINGEN

