



Lisa Ferguson: Living the dream

Although best known as a contemporary artist who creates vibrant abstract works, Lisa Ferguson is combining all her creative talents and experience, from painting to graphic design, event design and styling.

After many years working in Australia, London and New York, Lisa has been back in Christchurch since the earthquakes and has finally decided to settle here.

"I've spent over 20 years exploring the world but have always returned to my home city and have now decided to settle down and create a business that incorporates everything that I love," says Lisa.

This venture will include everything from creating customised artworks to graphic design, creative event concepts, full event planning and event styling for any kind of occasion ranging from a small private dinner party to a large corporate event or wedding.

Lisa has always had a strong creative urge, as well as a desire to explore and discover the world, from a very early age.

"As a four-year-old, I had an argument with my mum as I wanted to walk to the Ilam Road shops by myself. I had to wait until I was five, and even then was annoyed at Mum because she watched me from the letterbox, clearly to make sure I was safe, but in my eyes that wasn't fair as I hadn't done it completely by myself," says Lisa.

"I've always been creative and determined, and at 12, I had a little shed in the back garden where I spent hours creating care-bears, painted pots adorned with bows and items I sold at the local gift shop in Cashmere.

"At 15, I planned my first event, a school disco,

"THE COMMON THEME THROUGHOUT MY LIFE IS THAT I'VE ALWAYS BELIEVED THERE IS NO REASON WHY WE CAN'T DO WHATEVER WE DREAM OF. THAT ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE IF YOU BELIEVE IN YOURSELF, AS THE ONLY LIMITS ARE THE ONES YOU GIVE YOURSELF."

and at 17, with a desire for independence, as I wasn't allowed to leave school until I had a job, I put together a creative portfolio and knocked on doors until I was given a job at Nicholson Press.

"This is where my graphic design career began, and later I operated my own design business, Jumping Jellyfish Design."

Selling my art began after an electrician visited my home and, noticing the art on the walls, suggested I approach Heart of Art to sell my work. "I wasn't overly confident my art was good enough to sell but realised I had nothing to lose so showed them my work, and my art career was born," says Lisa.

"That was 14 years ago and since that time I've held exhibitions around the world, with my works being viewed on almost every continent.



"My sense of exploration led me to many travels and experiences overseas – living in Melbourne, Perth, Noosa, London and New York City, undertaking work from graphic design to event design and styling, and painting.

"The common theme throughout my life is that I've always believed there is no reason why we can't do whatever we dream of. That anything is possible if you believe in yourself, as the only limits are the ones you give yourself."

Exhibition highlights include a show at the NZ Embassy in London, filmed by Campbell Live; an exhibition at a brand new glass-front apartment complex in New York, with many celebrity residents, sponsored by 42Below Vodka, launched with a cocktail evening, where a private dinner was held for Hilary and Bill Clinton; and creating an enormous artwork and hand-painted gowns for NZ Fashion Week.

Lisa has worked with event companies in Australia, New York and Los Angeles, helping design and produce unique events and create customised items.

In recent weeks, Lisa created an artwork of the Christchurch Cathedral Rose Window, made from over 1200 Nespresso capsules, on display at the Nespresso boutique in Ballantynes; and she designed and produced a corporate 10th birthday with a carnival theme.

For further information, check her website, www.theeventboutique.co.nz or contact her by email info@theeventboutique.co.nz, or phone 021 193 3343



Lisa with some of her vibrant abstract artworks

