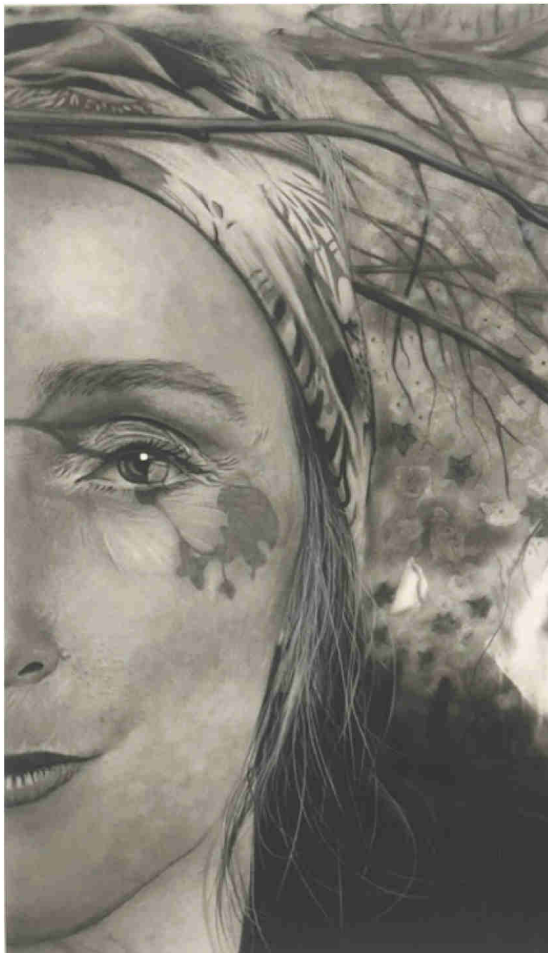


MATT WALTERS

A rise from the ashes



The Exhibition 'Breaking Point' will feature self-portraits, friends and connections.

OCEAN Grove resident Matt Walters has experienced some dark and uncertain times.

The 49-year-old has climbed his way up from there and reached out to others along the way who have also had challenging journeys.

"The power of connection is so important with people," Matt said.

"When you find another soul that you recognise or discover a similar journey with, it helps with every step along the path."

Taking this journey further, Matt revisited his artistic skills as part of his development and this has allowed him to reach into others in a visual way, portraying the raw emotion he sees in the eyes, the "windows of the soul" in his striking portrait artworks.

He studied airbrushing with Tony Vowles in 2018.

From there he wanted to explore the impression of airbrushing but achieved this using charcoal and pencil on heavy watercolour paper. This proved far more challenging.

"Funnily enough the focussed detailed areas of my work are easier than when I aim for the softer blurred areas," Matt said.

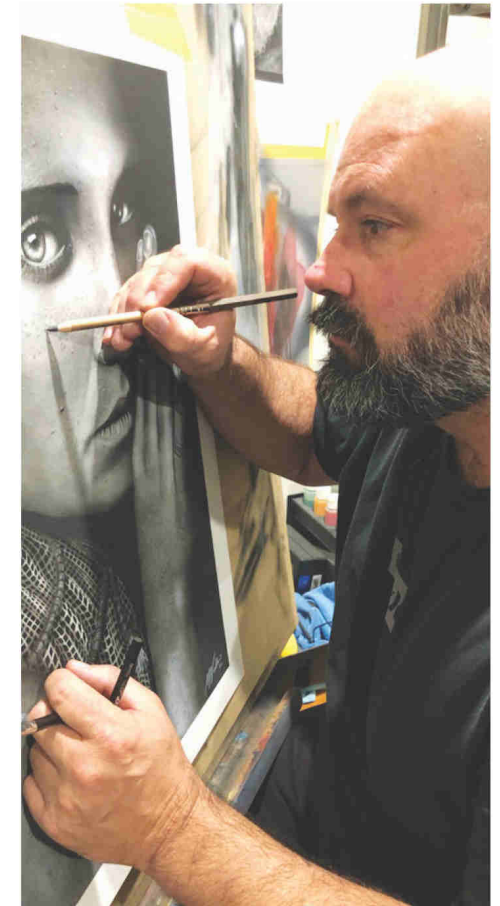
"Every part counts, however, and is there for a considered reason; to highlight shadow and light physically and metaphorically, to examine how we get caught in dulled moments of confusion or loss of focus, and further how it can swing the other way, with an obsessed look at minutiae and hopefully overall, a regaining focus as part of one's journey of self to somewhere brighter.

"Giving me further focus has been the invitation to exhibit my black and white portraits in The Hive Gallery in Ocean Grove in June which I am so thrilled about.

"A solo show will be held in their upstairs space and I can't wait to see all the works there as it lends them great strength and solidarity to be together."

The Exhibition *Breaking Point* will feature self-portraits, friends and connections, including Scott Andrews, the local portrait photographer known as 'The Travelling Alchemist' who uses old-fashioned wet plate techniques to create his distinct works.

He is the author and photographer of the limited-edition book *Man Up, Man Down* which



Artist Matt Walters.

highlights a similar theme.

This book will be available at the exhibition and part proceeds go to Right Mate, Supporting Men's Health, Hope Bereavement Care and Geelong Community Foundation.

Breaking Point by Matt Walters can be seen at The Hive Gallery, 41 Smithton Grove, Ocean Grove and opens on Saturday, June 5 from 2-4pm. All are welcome to support this journey and new local talent.