



Joe

Ben Quilty

Ben Quilty is a portraitist with a difference. While his work portrays the heroic, vulnerable and endearing personal traits associated with a quintessentially Australian character, it also presents Aussie larrikinism under pressure. While in residence in Paris as winner of the 2002 Brett Whiteley Travelling Art Scholarship, Quilty reflected on his situation as an Australian abroad by producing paintings that depict popular Australian icons. But his icons are not the usual clichéd symbols of Australia, and their depiction in powerful, gestured, almost urgent, strokes of colour demands a closer look. Although they are slightly surreal, the viewer immediately identifies with them.

Source: Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane