



CREATIVE SPACE

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Jacqueline Coates has opened a gallery in Kapunda which includes a studio space for her own paintings (below)

Painter Jacqueline Coates says country living is conducive to making good art but it's something she's discovered by accident.

Nearly a decade ago, she traded in a fast-paced Sydney lifestyle to renovate a property near Kapunda. With young children in tow and a career in advertising still fresh in her mind, no one expected her to last long.

But eight years on, she's just done up her second property – a gallery and studio space – and admits the area is perfect for her.

"Country living gives me a luxury of living and work space that allows me to express myself and have the balance of creativity and output that I need," she says.

She balances the "peaceful and nurturing" time with overseas travel – her next trip will be to Italy in May.

Jacqueline is known for her large colourful flower paintings and when she's not creating her own work, she runs workshops for adults and children.

Her new Kapunda venture - Salon Rouge - marks a slight change of direction as she adds representing other artists to her portfolio.

"I didn't see myself as a teacher but with the workshops that's how it's turned out and now I can promote other artists' work," she says.

"It's brought new people into my life."

When Jacqueline first spied the property – a galvanized iron shed in Carrington Street – she knew the 300 sq-m space had potential but it took 12 months of grit to transform it.

"I knew the space was too big just for me but it was an ideal gallery space," she says.

To realise that potential, the shed had to be lined and given new floors, additional doors and windows added for light, and an attractive outdoor area established.

Salon Rouge will host new exhibitions every two months, and visitors will also be able to see Jacqueline at work.

She says her flower paintings began as a way to express colour in her life when she was a single mum with two pre-school children.

"It was a great antidote to changing nappies and making sandwiches. It was an escape world."

As she has grown, the flowers have become "richer and more confident".

"I'm painting from life. I feel as if I can sit in front of anything and paint it," she says.

"I'm using the whole keyboard."

Salon Rouge is at 19 Carrington St, Kapunda.
www.salonrougegalleries.com

The next exhibition will feature paintings by Jacqueline and Sydney artist Sophie Gralton from April 11 to June 14.



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