



31
Now showing...

Times Life

Prize art turns new leaf



PICTURE: DEREK POOL

Artist Daniel Fisher with Pete Malavisi and the portrait which won the Signature South West Art Exhibition's people's choice award.

NATALIE BROWN

BUSSELTON artist Dan Fisher has strayed from his usual "dark" style to portray volunteer Pete Malavisi in a piece which was voted the public's favourite in the Signature South West exhibition last week.

Fisher's portrait of the midwife and Busseilton Community Garden founder received the People's Choice award in ArtGeo's annual exhibition when votes were counted last week.

Fisher, whose usual works include horror and robot-themes, told the *Times* he had to adopt a different technique for a portrait of Malavisi.

The local volunteer was chosen because of Fisher's enthusiasm for the community garden and because Malavisi was seen an inspiration for helping to "define the character of the South West" with his work.

"I couldn't do a darker picture of Peter because he's such a light person," he said.

The basic techniques involved with gardening were shown by the use of pen and ink in Fisher's piece and pressed leaves were used so the observer has to look closely to see which parts were drawn.

"I definitely wanted to capture the organicess and the softness of the garden so that's why I used some real pressed leaves on there as well," he said.

Malavisi, who also delivered Fisher's child, was thrilled with the

portrait and the artist for the awarded piece.

"It's almost like looking in the mirror," he said.

ArtGeo manager Sharon Williams said Signature South West was well patronised this year and the number of votes received for Fisher's entry showed the popularity of the community garden and the "photo realism" shown in the artwork.

She said the piece demonstrated a new level of maturity in the artist who

had exhibited his works at the gallery in the past, most recently with his Manobots and Steampunk pieces made using discarded materials.

Fisher will donate his portrait of Malavisi to the Busseilton Community Garden and said he hoped to tour with his work after recently receiving approval for a solo exhibition in Bunbury.

The Signature South West People's Choice award was supported by Pro Busseilton.