



TAKE A SEAT

THE ART OF PETER ROWE

An exhibition of paintings around the concept of chairs as a metaphor for the support, family gatherings, comfort, home and relaxation that enables Peter to fulfil his dreams. For Peter, 'chairs' have opened up a challenging but exciting form of self-expression and a diverse new way of representing his life.

OFFICIAL LAUNCH: 11am, Friday 20 January 2017
Light refreshments served, RSVP by 5pm, 18 January 2017

ON DISPLAY: 17 December 2016 - 25 February 2017



“A CHAIR'S FUNCTION
IS NOT JUST TO
PROVIDE A PLACE TO
SIT; IT IS TO PROVIDE
A MEDIUM FOR
SELF-EXPRESSION.
CHAIRS ARE ABOUT
STATUS... OR
SIGNALING SOMETHING
ABOUT ONESELF.”
[EVAN DAVIS]



Works on Show



Self Portrait with Guitar 2016

mixed media, collage on board; 101 x 81cm

A moment captured relaxed and happy in my favourite chair with another of my favourite things, music.

When the Seat is Pulled Out From Underneath You 2016



mixed media on canvas; 68 x 140cm

This painting captures the moments in life when things happen that catch you off guard and leave you feeling as though someone has pulled the seat out from under you. It reflects the sense of bewilderment when your foundation seems fractured.



The Three of Us 2016

mixed media on canvas; 50 x 40cm

This painting represents comfort and connections; it captures the family couch with me, my Mum and my Dad relaxing and happy.



Cat Sleeping Under Window 2016

mixed media on board; 90 x 90cm

This captures a regular view in my home, the sleepy serenity of one of my cats, Boris, sleeping in the sunshine under a window.



Man's Best Friend 2016

mixed media on paper; 120 x 97cm; framed glass

Willie is my dog, my friend, my confidant; Willie is always there to listen. One of my favourite things to do is to sit with Willie.



Teddy on Cane Chair 2016

mixed media on board; 70 x 60cm; framed glass

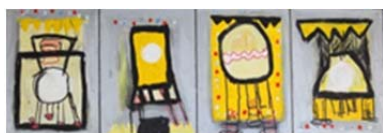
Teddy on Cane Chair represents my childhood memories of laughter and cuddles with my favourite teddy, Ben, and treasured memories from when I was a young boy.



Sitting With Myself 2016

mixed media on canvas; 30 x 40cm

Self-portrait capturing me at my happiest, sitting across from my Mum and Dad at the kitchen table. So many stories and laughter have been shared and I enjoy the moments when I am sitting by myself afterwards, smiling at our moments shared.



Collection of Chairs 2016

mixed media on canvas; 25 x 20cm each; (x4 pieces)



Chairs in Sync 2016

mixed media on board; 63 x 88cm

This painting is about the importance of having balance in your life, for me balance is being surrounded by people that support my dreams and passions who I can be myself around, feel safe with and am in sync with. The use of yellow captures the happiness I feel when this happens.



Neptune's Throne 2016

mixed media on canvas; 45 x 45cm

This painting is fun and fantasy, If thrones are meant for Kings and Queens then this is what I imagine the "King Of The Ocean" should sit upon. I enjoyed doing this painting; teal, turquoise and silver capture the movement and flow of the ocean and the underwater calm.



Silver Chair on Blue with Orange 2016

mixed media on canvas; 45 x 34cm



The Family Chair 2016

mixed media on canvas; 50 x 40cm

Every home has one of these, the spot to sit and share stories and love, the safe space to sit, we all need one of these.



Teal & Gold in Procession 2016

mixed media on board; 61 x 91cm

A procession of teal and gold seats demanding to be sat upon with bold and strong lines.



Stools Deconstructed 2016

mixed media on board; 44 x 122cm

The deconstruction of stools is somewhat like the deconstruction of our lives, it is always important to remember to pick yourself up and put things back together when life is challenging to maintain a strong foundation.



The Lady's Throne 2016

mixed media on canvas; 51 x 40cm

This is a chair or throne that I think of when I think of my mum she never stops she just keeps going. The emerald or green are the steps that I look forward to her climbing up to the throne where this special lady in my life will take a very much earned seat. I know my mum won't ever sit long however I would like her to have a special throne when she does. The use of pink and orange is the heart and use of green represents the stairs being safe and solid to take mum up to take her seat.



Chaos & Chairs 2016

mixed media, collage on board; 73 x 58cm

Sometimes life gets chaotic and you just want to take a seat, but time doesn't stop and so you have to keep jumping from one chair to the next to keep up.



Family Connections 2016

mixed media on canvas; 130 x 90cm

This painting captures connections made with family around the dinner table. We live in a world where people are becoming more disconnected and the simple act of taking a seat around the family dinner table is one that creates bonds. It is the place where connections are made and treasured.



Blue Haze 2016

mixed media, acrylic on paper; 61 x 50cm (framed glass)

The day I was painting this I was feeling a little overwhelmed about having to complete my works for my "Take a Seat" exhibition. The use of colour, the splashes and layering captured the collision between my artistic playful self and the reality of delivering the works required. It reflects and acknowledges that regardless of my disabilities I am just like any other person who has responsibilities and expectations.



Chairs to Sit on in the Blue Room 2016

mixed media on board; 60 x 50cm (framed glass)

I believe that everyone needs a chair to sit on in a special room & this is my idea of mine.



Throne for a Small Person 2016

mixed media on card; 72 x 62cm (framed glass)

The story behind this piece is there is always a time in our lives when we have to take a seat, however, every now and then we probably feel the need, and also deserve, to be seated in a throne. This painting is about knowing when to take time out and make our everyday seat taking, into a 'Throne Ceremony'.



The Seats We Need to Find 2016

mixed media on canvas; 168 x 84cm

We all need to rest sometimes, but at times it is difficult to find a seat, especially at a shopping centre



Collection of Happiness 2016

acrylic on board; 100 x 110cm (including 12 canvas boards)

A collection of the things in life that bring me happiness; music, art, friends and family and of course taking a seat to enjoy these moments.



Afternoon Shadows 2016

mixed media on canvas; 91 x 165cm



Carnival of Chairs 2016

mixed media on canvas; 74 x 114cm

This painting captures the carnival of colour and laughter that life can offer when you allow yourself to be open to receiving it.



Musical Chairs 2016

acrylic on canvas; 41 x 20cm each (x2 pieces);

This painting represents the joy and happiness I feel when I listen to music it also shows how music can be the inspiration behind my paintings and the celebration when music and art meet and come to life on the canvas.



#1 Coloured Chair 2016

#2 Coloured Chair 2016

#3 Coloured Chair 2016

#4 Coloured Chair 2016

mixed media



4 x found object sculptures - various sizes

Video Work on Show



I am Peter, I am an artist and a writer

by Tony Bryant; 3 mins From ABC Open - ***Day in the Life***

A chance meeting between myself and inspiring Caloundra writer and artist Peter Rowe inspired me to tackle my biggest video challenge yet to make this story for ABC Open's 'A Day in the Life' project.

Peter Rowe has Down syndrome; he is without speech, but he communicates using a letter-board system called Facilitated Communication, or FC for short. The sound of Peter's words in this video are therefore generated by a computer program.

I first met Peter and his family early in 2012 at a Regional Arts Development Fund presentation evening in Nambour, where my wife and I shared a table with Peter and his party. He had been awarded a grant to produce the next book in his Josh the Robot children's series.

Having spoken with Peter and his parents, Betty and Justin, it was immediately clear to me that Peter's story was one that needed to be told and perhaps the ABC Open 'A Day in the Life' project might be the vehicle I could use to do that.

I had already seen and heard enough to rough out the story in my head; the only question left was how I could do it.

The answer came a few minutes later when I was told that Peter also used a laptop with a speech-synthesizer program, so I could ask Peter questions and he could reply using the laptop.

It would be an unusual interview technique, but I'd seen TV News interviews done through Foreign- and Sign- Language interpreters, so what was new about using a speech-synthesizer? We'd now reached the point of no return; it was a done deal, and there was now absolutely no turning back.

In the cold light of morning, I whizzed off an e-mail to ABC Open Producer, Jo Joyce, outlining my proposal and I am eternally thankful, that after some discussion about the logistics involved, and a visit to see Peter at home, Jo decided in favour of the idea.

What you will see in the 3 minutes the video runs is a story about a man who has overcome a number of difficulties to be able to do what he always wanted to do for the first 30 years of his life, and that is simply to communicate with other people.

He thought a lot about the world he could see, hear and touch; but he had no way to share those thoughts, because he couldn't speak, and he couldn't write either.

Now, at 48 years of age, Peter communicates in words and pictures, and encapsulates those thoughts for others to read.

He has written, illustrated and published a series of children's story books, had two exhibitions of his paintings in the Maroochydore Library, and some of his works are on display at the Caloundra Regional Gallery until the end of January 2013.

Peter also addresses other groups of people who share his communication difficulties, hoping to inspire them to follow his lead.

But Peter is the first to acknowledge that he has had assistance from many people in overcoming his limitations.

Betty and Justin, Peter's Mum and Dad, have supported and believed in him over the last 48 years, and deserve their own series of accolades.

I too am indebted to Betty and to Justin, and also to Marcia and Cheryl, – Peter's Project Coordinator and Art Tutor respectively – for the assistance they gave me to bring Peter's story to public notice.

ABC Open Producer Jo Joyce filmed the Breakfast Table sequence and without her Smart-phone, there wouldn't be any time-lapse clips to condense many minutes of Peter's brush-strokes into a just few seconds. I am also indebted to her for trusting in my proposal which must have seemed a bit off-the-wall at first glance, and for advice and guidance during the editing process.

I had just one real fear at the outset, that I shared with Jo Joyce, which was that I might unwittingly stumble into on-screen territory that might be perceived as not treating Peter and his family with the respect and dignity to which they are entitled. I hope Jo's advice has saved me from falling into that trap.

Most of all though, I owe Peter my heartfelt thanks, because he never questioned what I asked him to do, and never hesitated when answering my questions, but I thank him most of all for just being Peter.

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