



A lifetime's experience . . . Rhondda Walters at the Lorn Gallery, near Maitland.

Picture: LIAM DRIVER

Artist looks back on 76 colourful years

KILABEN Bay resident Rhondda Walters can claim to have lived a more colourful life than most.

Among her many trips across the globe, the 76-year-old has also had the privilege of being a student of famous Hungarian artist Desiderius

Orban in the early 1970s.

Hunter residents can take a peep into the vibrant life of this local artist by viewing a retrospective exhibition at the Lorn Gallery in Belmore Road.

"What I find interesting for me looking at my work is ... over all these years my work is

different," Mrs Walters said. "I haven't fallen into that uncreative trap of repeating myself."

Mrs Walters credits Orban, who taught her for six years, for her love of art. "He was absolutely inspirational," she said.

"A bit frightening at times. He was a most creative man.

"He always used to say 'let the painting talk to you'."

Mrs Walters said the process of creating a piece of work was often unstructured. "I experimented with different types of paints and media," she said.

Mrs Walters' exhibition runs until November 12.

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Creative works on display

Rhondda Walters may have spent the past 35 years with a brush and colour palette in hand but don't think about calling her a painter.

The Lake Macquarie woman is exhibiting a retrospective show of her artworks at Lorn Gallery this month.

Ms Walters was never academically trained as a painter but studied under a number of different teachers, including the renowned Hungarian artist Desiderius Orban.

She believes this background and particularly Mr Orban's teaching heavily influenced her own style.

"My art is creative art, it's not academic," Ms



CREATIVE: Rhondda Walters with one of her artworks.

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Walters said. "(Mr Orban) opened up the world for me because he was able to tell me what makes a great work of art, he showed me art is about what comes from within.

"The difference between a painter and an artist is that a painter copies reality

while an artist creates their own version from that reality."

A total of 35 paintings have been included in Ms Walters' show, which includes works from 1986 and covers 12 themes.

They explore her love of mixed media and passion

for using different types of materials to create texture in her collages.

While this is not the first time Maitland art lovers have been given the chance to see Ms Walters work it is her first exhibition at Lorn Gallery. It will remain on display until November 12.