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## Artist's New York dream comes true

Christie Lenz | 23rd July 2012 4:50 AM

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Tags: art exhibition, artist, new york, painting, susan schmidt

SUSAN Schmidt's dream of having her work on show in New York is about to come true.

The Coast artist has had four paintings from her series Seaburbia included in next month's Chelsea International Fine Art Competition Exhibition.

And she sees it as much more than just a personal achievement as American art lovers will get to see a slice of Australian life they might not normally get to enjoy.

"It is exciting for me as an artist to get work displayed in New York but I think it is also quite exciting for Australia and the Sunshine Coast," Ms Schmidt said.

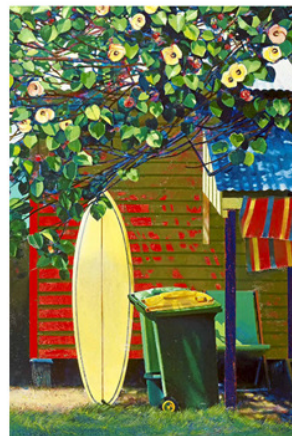
"I'm quite curious to get feedback to see what the response will be for the work in New York."

All four of the paintings depict traditional Australian beach houses, inspired by buildings on the Sunshine Coast.

Having moved from South Australia to Queensland in 1986 and living mostly in the Noosa area, Ms Schmidt said one of the first things she noticed was the unique architecture.

But the fibro beach houses were rapidly being demolished and replaced by apartments and houses which lacked the same character and nostalgia.

In Seaburbia, a sense of erosion and decay are enmeshed with the memory of these houses.



Ms Schmidt said her collection had evoked a sense of nostalgia in art lovers and reminded them of a return to a simple way of living.

The series has so far taken more than three-and-a-half years to produce.

"It's a fair while to be working, but the collection has been popular wherever I have shown it and it is a series I am still enjoying painting."

Following an eight-day stint in New York, Ms Schmidt will exhibit in Sydney before extending her reach to an international audience with an exhibition in Hong Kong in October.

The four paintings will be on display at the Agora Gallery New York from August 24 to September 12.

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Noosa artist Susan Schmidt with her painting 'Weekender'.

Kari Bourne

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