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Working with texture

Local artist specialises in unique leather pieces

You could say art runs in the family. Although, local artist Marita Brodie will be quick to deny it. Originally from South Africa, Marita moved here with her husband in 1979 and has called Fiji home since.

I am at her home in Toorak, Suva



admiring the art on the walls while she fills me in with a colourful running commentary.

Although her mum was a published artist and her sisters are also professional artists, Marita claims to "never having been anything like an artist" and to have found her calling - in this case, unique leather collages and the occasional oil painting, quite by chance.

Her love affair with art began quite organically when her husband sent her to a tannery to get leather for aprons and it was here that she stumbled upon coloured leather, bought some to bring back home to experiment with and there's been no looking back.

Since those early days, she has held solo shows, participated in exhibitions and won a few prizes along the way.

Her work in general, can be about "anything and everything" although local landscapes and scenes do feature.



Doing what she does best... Marita Brodie on her work bench.

The artist relaxing at home.

Her unique leather pieces are intricately executed works of great detail, where texture plays a central role.

"I love texture," she admits. Every year, Marita donates one of her leather pieces to a special auction that raises money for the visually impaired. Last year, a blind girl of 16, after feeling her painting told her it was the first painting she had ever "seen". "That brought tears to my eyes," says Marita. Marita Brodie's work can be viewed at The Art Gallery in downtown Nadi and is also available for purchase directly through the artist. For further information call Tel: 330-3322.

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