Artist has natural flair
Art's elementary for Kerrie

"I feel the need to pull apart and dissect the first known elements - earth, air, fire and water," Warragul artist Kerrie Warren explained.

"The basic fundamentals of life have been rearranged and strategically placed individually into canvases to create a balance and harmony that resonates with my own inner world."

Kerrie's latest exhibition, Through My Rose-Coloured Windows, is an at Warragul West Gippsland Art Centre from 3-19 December.

She said her latest works expressed her own personal journey exploring femininity.

Kerrie used a generous mix of acrylic and oil to create the depths, layers, boundaries and blocks.

"Soften and hard edges, control, confinement and limitations are achieved using a variety of brushstrokes," she said.

"Through My Rose-Coloured Windows is a body of work that has been painted to capture single moments of time from various perspectives including aerial, surface and those that plunge deep beneath the water.

"It reflects how I, as artist, feel about the landscape and how I feel about myself in it."

Kerrie has always painted but at the same time enjoyed a varied career that past gigs include producing products on Channel 10's Good Morning Australia, writing scripts for television and performing overseas for radio.

"In my early 20s I produced the last few months of Denise Drysdale's 60 and Co television series," she said.

"And I was performing vocals on radio at 16."

Kerrie's varied career matches her lifestyle to date, although she is now settled in Crossover, just 10 minutes outside of Warragul, with her husband of two years, Police Sergeant Chris Maxw.

Kerrie said she moved as many times throughout her childhood and into her adult life that it was good to settle down.

"Where I live now has been my longest stint," she said.

Kerrie made the journey to Crossover because Chris was stationed at Warragul and had lived in Crossover for many years when they met four years ago.

He is now stationed at Pakenham.

"It was an easy move to make, it's a very lovely place to live and work out of," she said.

"I have my studio there and it is very conducive to creating art.

"Yet Kerrie said she needed to draw inspiration from being around others, and the solitary life of an artist isn't always for her.

"I can be seen regularly at the Court House Cafe in Warragul just sitting watching people and enjoying the surroundings," she said.

"I set there with my cup of coffee and thought."

Kerrie said she had been lucky over the years with her different careers.

"I always seem to be in the right place at the right time," she said.

"Things just happen for me."

"Like the time I gained a three-year-long stint as an artist working on corporate commissioned works.

"That was a fantastic job to get, and I past regularly - the only downside of it was, as an artist, I couldn't completely express myself.

"Now I am back to painting exactly what I want to and putting my whole self into it."

Art has been Kerrie's world since she was a child, and she always dibbled in painting and drawing, but it wasn't until she was 25 that she realised her dream to be fully immersed in it.

"I went back to TAFE and did a three-year Diploma of Ceramics and Sculpture and later completed a Diploma of Art Therapy in Illawara," she said.

"I put away the knife once I completed the Diploma of Art Therapy and haven't been able to stop painting since."

Kerrie won best painting in 1999 at Fish Creek Art Group, was highly commended at Warragul Rotary Club in 2000 and won best exhibitor at this year's 2004 Warragul Rotary Art Show.

"She has exhibited selected collections at various corporations in the La Trobe Valley and businesses in the United Kingdom."

Through My Rose-Coloured Windows is an exhibition, Kerrie explained, where she "fits a world with unlimited colours and feels a pure passion to express in paint".