

DAVSON

How Art Gains Value Part 3

BY CELIA BERRELL

The Best Adventure

We've embarked upon a journey
that's our precious gift of life.
And celebrate its glory,
filled with beauty, love and strife.

For now the seas are placid
and the sky's a radiant blue.
With joy and faith, we take each step.
Your Light will see us through.

Poem inspired by Davson's painting,
On the Ark of Salvation (inset).



On the Ark of Salvation

Whether you are viewing a painting for its inspiration or investment potential, there are ways that enhance the appreciation process - both for the viewer and the painting. How can we really tell if a painting is good or not? The beauty or impact of a painting can be a very personal thing. But there's more to valuable art than just a pretty face.

The Power and the Passion

Myth, art and spirituality lie at the heart of many cultures. Religious reverence has powered some of man's most fantastical achievements, particularly in art and architecture. From the Egyptian Pyramids to the Sistine Chapel, regardless of our personal beliefs, we truly stand in awe.

There is certainly plenty of art that reflects beliefs and stories in such passionate ways that just viewing them somehow connects us.



Davson in her art studio hallway

Whether they are cave drawings, a canvas of Christianity or an Aboriginal Dreamtime depiction, they will be images that show and share, reflecting how someone somewhere cares.

There was a time when wealth was

lavishly bestowed on spiritual or religious art, particularly in eras such as Renaissance Europe and ancient Egypt. In comparison, our Indigenous cultures see the riches of storytelling as paramount to the art's value. But then spirituality is not about monetary richness. It is more about fulfilling our lives and souls.

In our modern Western world at least, the artists most dedicated to creating images that uplift the soul and inspire positive passion for life are frequently generous artisans who are doing it out of love. Perhaps this is a predominantly feminine trait, with gentleness and joy being the reward as well the gift. Spiritual art is a diverse genre whose expression gives us all the freedom to fly and dream for a greater good. It is also again attracting a return to high wealth investment. Are we becoming tired of confronting, aggressive or art that shocks or depresses the senses?

Many great artists have created spiritually uplifting paintings. Can you match the artist with the title of the painting they created?

BY Celia Berrell

1. Sandro Botticelli
2. Sharon Davson
3. Vincent van Gogh
4. Salvador Dali

- A. On the Ark of Salvation
- B. Madonna of Port Lligat
- C. The Virgin and Child with five Angels
- D. Pieta



Discovery



Sharon Davson and Leo Sayer in front of Gifts of Trust

Artists of the Ark

Discussing artist's spiritual beliefs tends to sound like a testament to their good behaviour! None of us are perfect, but two words aptly describe Davson for a character reference and her spirituality: generosity and gratitude. Her art, particularly since the mid 1990s, has been created with the intention of uplifting and inspiring others in their faith.

Believing we can make a difference in the world may sound presumptuous, but if we are prepared to give of ourselves in the attempt, and meet like-minded people along the way, it might just work. And for Davson it did - and still does. For example, her environmental and world peace charity ventures and initiatives over the past two decades contributed towards many improvements and changes in our global community, as well as helped to bring out the best in everyone they touched.

In 2002, Davson also became a Founding Patron of the Multifaith Association of Newcastle & Hunter Region. Finding common ground between various faiths, the association organised functions that

celebrated the region's cultural diversity and its compatibilities.

On a personal level, and as a member of Sukyo Mahikari since 1995, Davson is comfortable with faith having different flavours. Sukyo Mahikari includes people of different religious preferences that see their participation in sharing the Light of God and all creation as a natural progression from their foundation beliefs. And gratitude is a key component of any form of spirituality.

Davson incorporates these beliefs into her art, and with some surprising results. The more dedicated to inspiring others she became, the higher the values of her paintings also became. Now several of her major works are re-selling for substantive seven figure sums.

One of the highlights of Davson's spirituality and artistic career was when her painting *With Gratitude Comes Growth* was gifted by the Australia-Oceania Region of Sukyo Mahikari for the collection of the Hikaru Memorial Museum Takayama Japan in 1996. Then from February to July 2003, her flagship of spiritual art *On The Ark of Salvation* became the front-cover illustration for six monthly copies of the

Sukyo Mahikari International Journal.

As an artist who works mainly on commission, *On The Ark of Salvation* is one of only a handful of personal major works created by Davson. Since the painting's creation in 1999, the image has acquired an impressive provenance through publications and major retrospective exhibitions of Davson's art in public galleries. In 2011, it sold for \$1.3 million, making it the highest valued painting by a living Australian artist.

Her inspirational paintings are now a highly valued commodity, and a new art movement is subsequently taking shape. On 3rd November 2011 in Takayama Japan, the *Arkists* or *Artists of the Ark* was formally pronounced with Davson as the acknowledged leader and artistic inspiration. The movement invites all artists who create in any medium for the uplifting joy and gratitude of their spiritual beliefs to become connected.

Could this be a resurgence of spiritual art rising to the role of lead violin instead of second fiddle in the wonderful orchestra of art and life?



I Wonder What Reality Is



Offering Gratitude Together

Contact *Davson Art* management to acquire her art from \$5,000 and upwards; to learn more about why Davson's art has experienced better than approximately 20% per annum growth for collector / investors for more than two decades; or to find out more about the *Artists of the Ark*.

DAVSON
... the artist

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