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**THE CHRONICLE-HERALD**

The Chronicle-Herald  
Entertainment, Thursday, June 6, 2002, p. B4

## **Panoramic beauty; Inverness artist Fraser captures the world around him**

**Elissa Barnard**  
Arts Reporter

*Doug Fraser fought his way through a painter's block to keep painting, and today his perseverance is paying off.*

*The self-taught, Inverness artist started painting 25 years ago but he ran into trouble.*

*"I was hitting a wall. I was working at other jobs, you've got family life and you want to put time into your art," says Fraser, surrounded by the hills of Cape Breton and his own stunning skies in his paintings at Ya Ya Galleria in Halifax.*

He decided his art was important enough that he had to do it full time. First he discussed it with his wife and two kids.

"It's a group decision. You need that good communication between everyone. It's a family decision and it works."

"When I decided to do it full time the ideas started to flow."

His paintings, now in demand, are panoramic landscapes of Cape Breton and Northern Nova Scotia. Fraser also paints smaller outdoor scenes like a cascading waterfall or a rainbow reflected in the window of a grey-shingled shed. His style is a crisp, "high" realism with atmospheric skies and light.

His solo exhibit at Ya Ya Galleria, in Doucet-Watts and Davis Interiors, at the Westin Nova Scotian Hotel, is on

to June 14. He also exhibits this summer at the Inverness Miners Museum - Annex Gallery, opening July 20, and running to Aug. 5.

Fraser's kids are involved in their dad's art because they often go with him on hiking trips while Fraser is exploring the land. What hits him about a place is a moment, usually involving a light that impresses him. "You just get that feeling and try and get it on the blank canvas," says Fraser. He will return to a spot over and over again to get it just right in the painting.

For a canvas of kids playing hide-and-seek among hay bales, he went specifically to a field by the sea with his kids. "I had the idea of hide-and-seek. When I pulled into the field, a Subaru was in front of us and the guy said, 'Are you here to play hide-and-seek?' I said, 'What?' I couldn't believe it."

The man's three boys joined Fraser's kids for an afternoon that produced two pictures, *Going Home*, and *Hide 'n' Seek*. This painting has a Bo-Peep pastoral feel with its hay bales casting long shadows, and a little girl in blue and white standing against a haystack. There is a mystical feel with a pale moon rising.

Fraser built a deck on the back of his house "so I could see the ocean and the sun. I can see the storms from every which way." The painting,

*Storm Approaching*, of clouds moving in towards a foreground of grass speckled with wildflowers, is from that deck.

"The sunsets in Inverness are unreal, unbelievable."

Art has been worth the struggle, he says. "I love it. I love to bring it to completion. You have the idea in your head. If you don't get it down on canvas you're going to lose it. I needed those ideas finished.

He counts among his influences Andrew Wyeth, Rembrandt, Caspar David Friedrich, Alex Colville, Aelbert Cuyt and Albert Bierstadt.

Fraser has done commission pieces for both private individuals as well as corporations. He has successfully shown his work in several juried shows across Canada and much of his work can be found in private collections throughout North America.

Fraser started to paint when he was young boy. "When you're a kid you're always thrown crayons and pencils and I kept going."

He started painting over 25 years ago when his brother gave him a set of oil paints.

"I believe I always wanted to be an artist. I just kept working at it. Even when I'd go to work other jobs I came back in the evening and kept picking at it and picking at it and

experimenting with mixing colours. Fraser, who had two solo shows last year and has work in private collections in North America, also has a Web site: [www.douglasfraserart.com](http://www.douglasfraserart.com)  
You're always growing."

**Figure:**

Eric Wynne / Herald Photo

Inverness artist Doug Fraser is surrounded by his paintings in his solo exhibit at Ya Ya Galleria, Westin Nova Scotian Hotel in Halifax.

Broad Cove Coast Line, by Doug Fraser, is in the Inverness artist's solo exhibit at Ya Ya Galleria.

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**The Chronicle Herald**

The Chronicle-Herald

Entertainment, Thursday, August 16, 2007, p. F3

**[Alluring, an oil painting by Inverness artist Doug Fraser, is part of the artist's 2007 collection, now on view at Fraser's new year-round studio overlooking...]**

**Figure:**

Alluring, an oil painting by Inverness artist Doug Fraser, is part of the artist's 2007 collection, now on view at Fraser's new year-round studio overlooking the Northumberland Strait. The Doug Fraser Art Studio, at 178 Loch Ban Rd., Inverness, is open 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily or by appointment (258-2455). Website is: [www.dougfraserart.com](http://www.dougfraserart.com). (Contributed)

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## **Where are we? In Lunenburg; Fraser exhibits new series**

*Doug Fraser is taking his annual show from Inverness to Lunenburg this summer.*

*Fraser's 2005 collection, Where are we?, of 21 realist and surrealist oil paintings, opens today, 5 p.m., at Lunenburg Art Gallery and runs to July 24.*

*Each piece in Where are we? is meant to evoke emotion, reflection and thought. In the painting, Self Portrait, the viewers will find themselves literally in the ever-changing rock face.*

Born and raised in Inverness County, Fraser started to paint when he was 15 and a sister gave him a paint set.

As a self-taught artist he has spent the last 28 years reading about art, going to museums and galleries and painting. Among the artists who've influenced him are Andrew Wyeth, Rembrandt, Caspar David Friedrich, Alex Colville, Albert Bierstadt and Edward Hopper.

Living in Inverness County he is surrounded by rural life in all its simplicity and complexity, which is

often his subject matter. He enjoys capturing the spirit of life interacting with its surroundings and wants each painting to tell a story.

Fraser has been painting full time for the last six years. He has shown in solo and group exhibits. His most recent show at the Inverness Miners Museum Annex Gallery drew over 1,000 visitors from North America, Europe and Asia. Three quarters of this show sold within three weeks.

His website is: [dougfraserart.com](http://dougfraserart.com)

### **Figure:**

Contributed Self Portrait is among the 21 realist and surrealist oil paintings by Doug Fraser in the exhibit Where are we?, opening today, 5 p.m., at Lunenburg Art Gallery.

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