



Bill Burke's pastel canvas of *Tokatu's* arrival.

Artist captures *Tokatu's* big moment on canvas

There were hundreds of people taking pictures when Sealord's \$70 million factory trawler *Tokatu* sailed in to Port Nelson but one spectator had something more in mind.

Accomplished Nelson artist Bill Burke was excited to read in the local newspaper that the new vessel was due to arrive from Norway.

"I knew I wanted to capture it coming through the

Cut for the very first time," he said.

His painting, which he worked on in the days following *Tokatu's* arrival in mid-June, is on sale for \$3500 but Burke said the canvas wasn't about making money.

"I have always loved painting boats, ships and clinker dinghies. I just wanted to record a moment of history."

He said his enjoyment of painting boats started as a schoolboy when he would bike down to Port Nelson in the early 1970s, when there was no fencing, to find a spot to sit and draw the fishing boats up on the hard.

Ten years ago, he painted an acclaimed portrait of legendary Nelson builder of wooden fishing boats, the late Jack Guard.

"He was the man who built a lot of the fishing boats that I have painted like *Destiny G*, *Dorothy May* and *Tequila*."

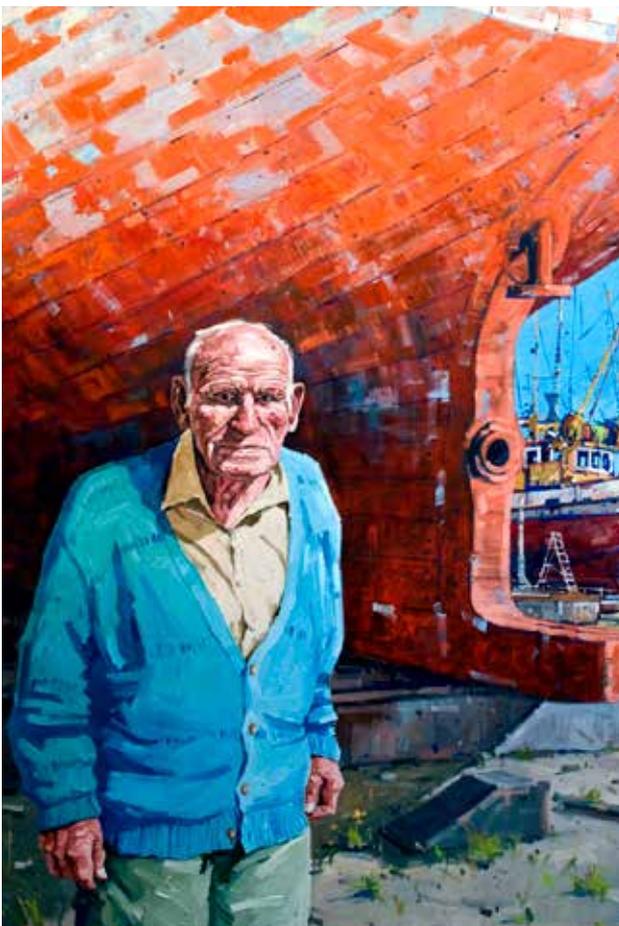
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Burke works in oils and pastels at his studio on the banks of Nelson's Maitai River, which has a small gallery exhibiting his paintings. As well as busy maritime scenes and portraits, he is known for landscapes and paintings of farmyard animals, and has won many awards. "I pretty much paint whatever catches my eye."

To see more go to billburke.co.nz



Tequila at its Nelson berth.



Jack Guard.



Bill Burke at work in his studio.