



TALENT: Cain Lazenby's work including, from left, the Burnie Shines logo, *Italian Booby* and *Trumpart*

Artist Cain's work shines

Gill Vowles meets the man taking Lazenby art hi-tech

CAIN Lazenby thought he was going to be an engineer, but instead he has followed in the footsteps of his father Nigel — an award-winning Tasmanian artist.

The 30-year-old from Sisters Beach will hold his first solo exhibition later this month and has also been chosen as the feature artist for this year's Burnie Shines festival.

"I was absolutely stoked to be chosen as the feature artist and it couldn't have come at a better time," he said.

"I always wanted to produce my own art work but I couldn't find the right style for me.

"I have only recently found it so the timing of Burnie Shines is perfect for me."

As the son of an art teacher and award-winning landscape artist, Cain had a pencil and paper in his hand from the age of four.

"I played with some abstract stuff while I was at high school and I got top marks in graphic design while studying at Hellyer College in Burnie," he says.

"But then I decided to become an engineer and enrolled in a course at Burnie TAFE."

However, it didn't take long for the Lazenby art genes to take over.

"I didn't enjoy the engineering course at all so I instead enrolled in an Associate Diploma of Graphic Design at the TAFE School of Arts in Launceston."

After graduating, Cain worked for a while as a casual graphic designer and in 1994 started his own graphic design studio, Niche Graphics, at Sisters Beach.

Specialising in web design and multi-media, Cain now has clients in the United Kingdom and most Australian states.

Although his business was booming Cain was still feeling the urge to produce "art" work.

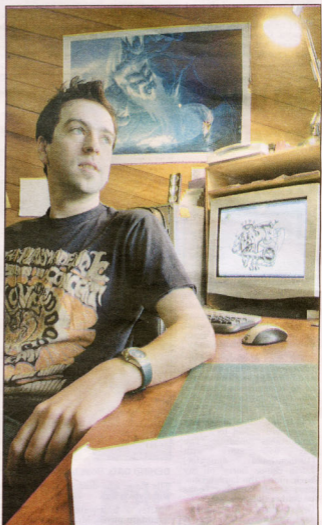
"I tried canvas and pencil drawings, but it didn't feel right," he said. "I also worked on a series of T-shirt designs, but that didn't happen either."

"It was only when I went back to my trade and started creating digital art that it all clicked."

Now Cain has a series of surreal, abstract digital images which will be exhibited later this month at Burnie's Rialto Gallery.

"My love of television animation and fantasy films have been strong influences on my work and I've also been influenced by artists like M.C. Escher and Salvador Dali. I guess what I'm trying to do is to make people think differently about what they're seeing."

Although the Lazenby name is currently better known in the art world for a more traditional land-



IN DEMAND: Artist Cain Lazenby has found inspiration in the Burnie industrial landscape. Picture: CHRIS KIDD

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scape style, Cain says his father, Nigel, is one of his biggest fans.

"When I showed the first pieces to Dad he said he'd back me all the way and help me launch an exhibition if necessary."

Thanks to his graphic design work, Cain didn't end up needing his father's help.

Burnie Shines organiser, Burnie City Council manager of marketing and events, Jenny Cox stumbled across Cain's work while looking for an animator.

"I wanted someone to do an animation of the Burnie Shines logo," Jenny said.

"Everyone recommended Cain and when I looked at his website and discovered his body of digital art I was rapt because I'd been having trouble finding a feature artist this year. There's no short-

age of excellent artists but I like to feature young emerging artists and for them timing is always critical."

Jenny says when she saw Cain's work — "it's like a mixture of Tubular Bells meets Escher meets Dali" — she was sold.

"Cain's work is just so fresh and vibrant, it's awesome. Because it is a quite contemporary style some people might find it challenging, but I think people will grow to love it as we all do."

Jenny says she particularly loves the piece Cain was commissioned to produce for the Burnie Shines marketing material.

"The way the factory elements like exhausts are transformed into creative elements like trumpets just so accurately reflect Burnie, its transformation and its future," she said.

Cain says his goal in completing the commission was to incorporate the main aspects of Burnie into his style of art.

Cain's first solo exhibition at Burnie's Rialto Gallery will open on September 24. His Burnie Shines exhibition will open at Creative Paper on October 21.