

Exhibition celebrates artist's work

It was while serving in the air force during World War II that Ed Irving Nicholson discovered his love for painting.

The 82-year-old Howick resident was born in South Africa and celebrates over 60 years of painting with an exhibition at te tuhi — the mark this month.

It is his first exhibition in New Zealand after moving here five years ago.

The artist began studying architecture before joining the South African Air Force, where he spent six years, in 1939.

He was shot down and taken prisoner of war for nine months before being released to the Allies.

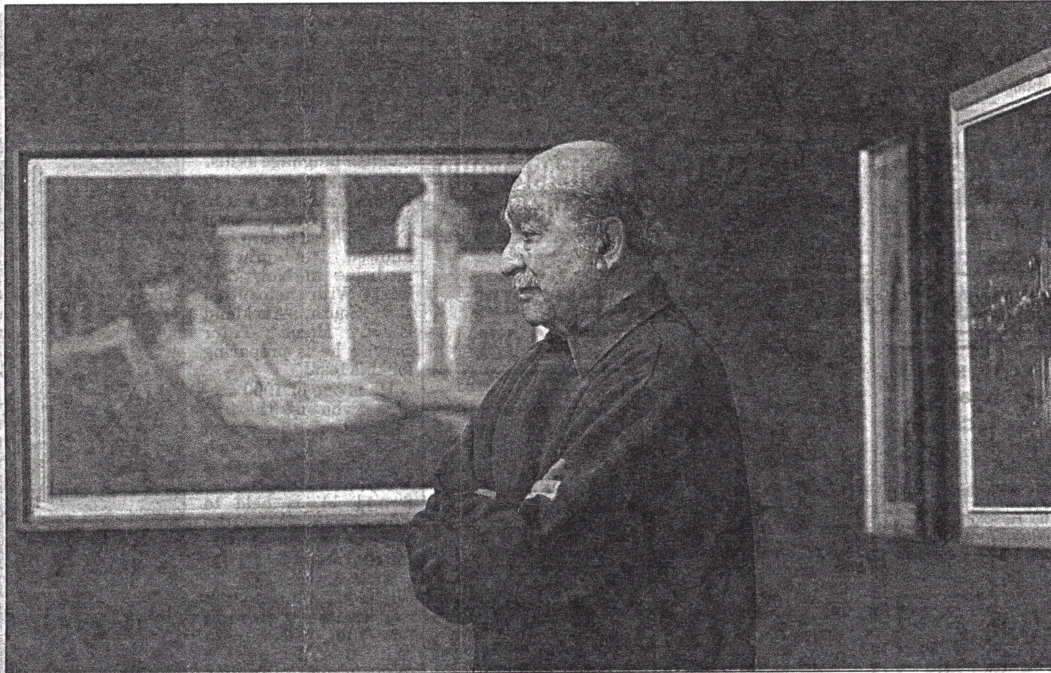
Despite dabbling in watercolours before the war, serving in the air force allowed him to focus on his artistic talent.

"There was a lot of idle time in the air force between operations," Mr Irving Nicholson says.

After the war he pursued art and won a scholarship to study a British national diploma in painting and design at the Beckenham School of Art in Kent.

This was followed by post-graduate studies at the Royal College of Art in London.

Mr Irving Nicholson has



LOOKING BACK: South African artist Ed Irving Nicholson's exhibition at te tuhi — the mark looks back over 60 years of painting.

exhibited throughout Europe with groups such as the Royal Academy and The Paris Salon.

He returned to South Af-

rica in 1951 and over the next 25 years held more than 27 solo exhibitions and group shows.

He was the head of

graphic design at the Johannesburg Art School, and senior lecturer in graphic design and painting at the Port Elizabeth

College of Advanced Education before retiring in 1986.

His work is represented in galleries and private collections around the world.

Oils, enamels and water-colour works depicting scenes from throughout the world including France, South Africa and Venice make up the exhibition at te tuhi — the mark.

The earliest work on display was done while Mr Irving Nicholson was at art school in 1949.

Serving in the air force has influenced his artwork in that he likes to view things from a height, he says.

It didn't take him long to realise the importance of carrying a sketchbook everywhere he went, he says.

"Whether you are inside or outside there is always something to excite you."

Although Mr Irving Nicholson still paints occasionally, there is now no urgency for producing work for exhibitions, he says.

"Sometimes I take an old painting and rework it or start another one based on it.

"But I spend most of my time reading and listening to music," he says.

A Retrospective Exhibition of Paintings by Ed Irving Nicholson is on at te tuhi — the mark until this Sunday at 13 Reeves Rd, Pakuranga. Phone: 577-0138.