

Paintings inspired by the sea

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MALCOLM Schlesinger's pièce de résistance, *Aquamarine*, symbolises the artist's long-term love affair with the ocean.

"It's my scene," the 65 year old told the A&P. "It's where I live. I see the water every day. I've always been close to the seashore."

Aquamarine, an oil on canvas, which Schlesinger regards as one of his most important works, will be displayed as part of the Summer Moments group exhibition at the Bondi Art Moment Gallery this month.

"That particular painting is more or less an expression of joy," says Schlesinger, who used a combination of experimentation and complex techniques to create the work.

Born in Egypt, Schlesinger later migrated to Brisbane as a teenager, where he worked for an advertising firm despite speaking very little English.

"You couldn't live in Cairo," he recalls. "I mean it was really terrible, they were attacking Jews and Europeans."

After studying at a Brisbane Technical College, Schlesinger eventually became an art director, and later became a graphic designer.

"I used to do the Qantas advertising," he says.



Malcolm Schlesinger with his oil on canvas, *Aquamarine*.

About 10 years ago, Schlesinger, who now lives in Sydney, turned to his first love – painting. His works have featured twice in the Salon De Refusés (Archibald Portrait Prize).

"[Art] is my passion," Schlesinger

explains. "From day one when I was I used to draw ... I always wanted to draw

Summer Moments runs until December 24 at Moment Gallery 381 Curlew Street