

US beckons Archibald artist

BY BEN DOUGLAS

HER portrait of Steve Bisley may not have won her the Archibald, but it hasn't spoiled a terrific run for Balmain artist Bronwyn Woodley-Graham.

In a little more than a year, Bronwyn has held two successful exhibitions - both sellouts - and has been invited to show her works in the US.

"That is just fantastic for me, not because they were sellouts, but because I know people love my work. And that is what it is all about for me, art is about making something that people feel is beautiful, something that will improve a space," Bronwyn said.

Her second exhibition, held at the prestigious MLC Gallery in Ultimo, led to an invitation to show her works at a gallery in New Adams, outside Boston in the USA.

The date is still to be confirmed, but the US exhibition will probably be around October and Bronwyn will accompany her works.

"It will definitely be inspiring. The first thing I will do is go to the galleries in New York," Bronwyn said.

As for the portrait of Steve Bisley, not making the Archibald finals has taken nothing away from what both



Bronwyn's portrait of Steve will be hanging in Canteen on Darling St throughout April.

found an enjoyable experience.

Steve's Canteen café in Darling St is next to Bronwyn's studio, and with his distinctive features he was a natural choice of subject, she said.

"Steve is just wonderful, and he has such an amazing features, he was really very easy and a joy to paint."

For Steve, the experience was enlightening.

"It was a fascinating process to see through. It is confronting in a way, to have someone painting not just your head but your entire self, in life size, but the fascination and the interest of it far outweighed any unpleasantness," he said.

The painting is two metres by two metres, and is produced in oils.