



Painting through the pain of illness

Artist shows light and shade of complex human nature, writes **Kate Crawford**

Artist Anthony Breslin, and below, one of his works.

ARTIST Anthony Breslin offers this defiant and colourful photograph of himself, but he confesses it makes him sad.

Since the photograph was taken, Breslin has battled leukaemia, now in remission, and is suffering from kidney disease requiring daily dialysis.

“But I do like the photograph because I hope to look like that again,” Breslin said.

The photograph was taken for his avant garde performance piece *TRYBE – An Opera in Paint* where Breslin painted dancers live on stage in Melbourne.

Breslin no longer has the energy for such artistic antics but he’s recently produced a series of paintings for a new


exhibition at Traffic Jam Galleries at Neutral Bay.

The collection is a quiet victory for Breslin in the face of his daily struggle against fatigue and illness.

“I do get frustrated trying to paint but once I’m in the zone, it helps and gives me a purpose,” he said.

The faces in his paintings could hint at his own health crisis but Breslin says no – he’s always been fascinated with human beings and their complex, duplicitous natures.

Breslin’s career includes 50 solo exhibitions and he also had his own gallery in an old Melbourne church. The exhibition at Traffic Jam Galleries continues until November 24.

 **Details:** trafficjamgalleries.com.au

