

# Precious petals and lyrical metals

**Kate Crawford** reports on a show of contrasts

REBECCA Pierce's paintings are so laden with painted flowers that each canvas can weigh up to 27kg.

She has used litres of paint to create the bouquets of flowers, with each bloom about 5cm deep. The paint is so thick it can take more than six weeks to dry.

An exhibition of Pierce's flower paintings opens tonight at her Neutral Bay gallery, Traffic Jam Galleries, in tandem with an exhibition by prominent Clontarf sculptor Jenny Green.

Ironically, most of Green's steel sculptures are lighter than Pierce's paintings.

But while the paintings initially appear pretty and decorative, the "vases" are disparate objects like knives or hammers, hinting there's more to flowers than transient blooms.

"Flowers can indicate many layers – sexuality, beauty, death – and they can be an apology for someone's mistake," said Pierce.

"It's up to the viewer to see the beauty, the colour or something else in the paintings."

Green, who had a sculpture featured in the North Sydney Art Prize, has created lyrical steel sculptures inspired by the

rhythms and melodies of music.

Several of her sculptures contain elements of musical notes. "I wanted to express the joy of music, of feeling, of movement in the curves of the steel," she said.

One series of Green's sculptures are cast in bronze, entitled *Stradi-Various*, and are inspired by the Stradivarius violin.

• **Green's work is called *Let's Dance* while Pierce's exhibition is called *Split Persona-Poles Apart*, continuing until March 28. Details: [trafficjammalleries.com](http://trafficjammalleries.com)**

Artist Rebecca Pierce and sculptor Jenny Green (inset) are exhibiting at Traffic Jam Galleries in Neutral Bay. Pictures: Bradien Fastier

