

arts

POST ■ December 2, 2006

TIMEOUT

P9

Road trip fuels artistic fire

UK artist Becky Blair has returned to Perth for another solo exhibition at Gadfly Gallery in Dalkeith.

Becky has been coming to Perth for the summer since 2003 and has established a strong following for her brightly coloured, lively paintings.

But she has been so busy over that time preparing for exhibitions here and in the UK that she felt the need to be re-inspired.

In January, she travelled to India and began to get back the fluid, free imagery that she craved.

"It was that feeling you get when you're sitting in the back seat of a car or on a train – that feeling of relaxation, of day dreaming but still taking in all the sights, sounds and colours,"



■ Becky Blair puts the finishing touches to her latest collection produced from a road trip from Darwin to Fremantle.

Becky said. "It was a really nice head space to be in."

The feeling has translated into the title of her latest collection at Gadfly: *Backseat Fiction*.

For her annual trip to Perth, she decided to start from Darwin and, in a

hired campervan, took four weeks to drive to Fremantle through Kakadu, the Kimberley, Ningaloo, Coral Bay, Shark Bay and the mid-West.

"It was quite overwhelming to begin with," Becky said.

She said she trekked out on a daily basis, drawing or painting really quickly to get her eye for the landscape back and to re-assess the vivid colours.



■ *Morning Dip* (acrylic on canvas) by Becky Blair

Rich reds, bright pinks, azure blues and lurid fluorescents have always dominated her work, so she surprised herself with a collection of semi-abstract landscapes in yellows, turquoise and aqua greens.

"I am very capable with strong colours so it gave me a new confidence working with softer colours and referencing to the scene in front of me and not relying on stored memory," she said.

Backseat Fiction is her third solo showing in Perth, following the very successful *When The Wild Things Bloom* in 2004 and *Barefoot* in the Supermarket in 2003, both held at Gadfly Gallery.

The exhibition runs from December 2 to 22.



■ *Market Day* (acrylic on canvas) by Becky Blair