

STRATHMORE HEIGHTS

# STORY IN ART

Linh Ly

SPINNING a tale inspires Chris Bond to create his art pieces.

The Strathmore Heights resident's creations are based on fictional scenarios, including his latest piece *The Devil's Spit*.

A storyline came to Bond as he passed through Victorian town Dean, which was full of open paddocks and very few houses.

"It seemed like a good setting for things that disappear," the 39-year-old artist said.

*The Devil's Spit* is a collection of imagined items found in an abandoned caravan where five artists had lived. The artists mysteriously disappeared after they went to Dean to examine the acidic lava that flowed beneath the town.

Bond said it was up to the viewer to determine which pieces belonged to which artists and aspects about their life.

"I use fiction as a means of generating ideas and form," he said.

Bond said his invented stories had become his methodology in practising art so that he could "channel" his characters' energy and act as they might.

"It's a beginning to create some space between myself and the work. It allows me to work in character."



Chris Bond (pictured) is one of 15 finalists in the Guirguis New Art Prize. His piece will exhibit at the Art Gallery of Ballarat and Federation University Australia's Post Office Gallery until May 31. Details: [artgalleryofballarat.com.au](http://artgalleryofballarat.com.au)

Picture: CARMELO BAZZANO