

Let me count the ways

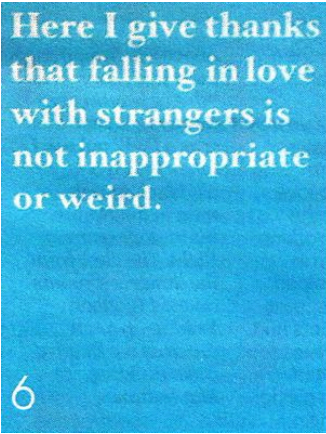
7 MORE THAN WORDS

Can't find the words to tell your partner how much you love them? Immortalise your feelings with a piece of art by Elliot Collins instead. The emerging Auckland-based artist often makes use of poetic and simple phrases in his paintings, related to love, life and beyond. "I use words to make paintings that often tell you what the painting is about, much in the same way a child can tell you about their drawing which, to you, looks like a scribble," explains the 26-year-old. "The written word is beautiful and I always treat it as a privilege to use. I find myself getting more and more particular and sensitive to overusing words. I hate wasted words. I'm an artist who writes, not the other way around, and I think that's the difference and what makes it art."

Collins graduated from AUT with a Masters degree in painting in 2007, and has several solo and group shows under his belt; with gallerist Tim Melville saying he paints like a dream. "Elliot's artworks seem loaded with hope and humanity and possibility in a world that's often preoccupied with irony and cynicism," explains Melville. "In artworks like these you get a real sense of the artist making himself vulnerable. They're brave, but they're also beautifully considered and thought-provoking. There's a quality of romantic melancholy and knowing innocence that slams you right in the heart — it's a flash of recognition — and I love seeing people's faces change when they come in to the gallery."

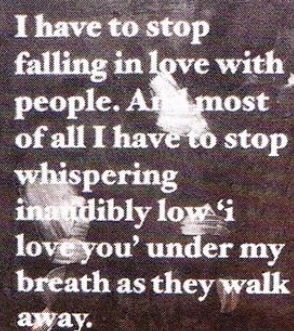
Selected pieces of Collins' work are currently on display at Tim Melville Gallery, as part of the group exhibition *Sunblock*.

● *Tim Melville Gallery, 2 Kitchener Street, Auckland, ph (09) 302 4110.*



Here I give thanks
that falling in love
with strangers is
not inappropriate
or weird.

6



I have to stop
falling in love with
people. And most
of all I have to stop
whispering
inaudibly low 'i
love you' under my
breath as they walk
away.