

# Inspiration found in old shearing shed

A MALLEE shearing shed was the perfect studio for Melbourne artist Martin Tighe.

Martin was visiting his cousin's farm in the Mallee in September when he came across rusted tin in the empty shearing shed.

"I was struck by its aesthetic qualities and did a quick composition there and then," Martin says.

It was the first in a series of landscapes Martin composed using discarded tin, wheat and oil colours. The striking pieces, titled *Wheat Fields*, were all created in the shed during Martin's three return visits.

"The shearing shed is an iconic part of Australian culture," Martin says.

"It conjured images of sweat and swearing; I loved it and it was totally inspiring."

Martin, who usually paints portraits and sport subjects, says these are his first landscape works.

"I was amazed how brutal and blasted the landscape can be," he says.

"I was engaged by the different pace of life and by the environment."

An exhibition of *Wheat Fields* is at Melbourne's Ho Gan Gallery in Collingwood until May 14.

— Laura Cochrane



Cereal artist: Martin Tighe with one of his wheat field compositions.

Picture: GREG SCULLIN