



100 heads project for city's birthday

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By David Charters Daily Post Staff

A MERSEYSIDE artist, who has gained international recognition for his pictures of the Liverpool and New York waterfronts, is turning his skill to an even more ambitious project.

Tony Brown plans to paint 100 portraits of living people, who have contributed to the development of Merseyside, to be ready for 2007 when Liverpool celebrates the 800th anniversary of being granted its Royal Charter by King John. It is to be called 100 Heads Thinking As One. There will also be a massive "Charter Cloth" of portraits celebrating our past.

Although there will be some familiar faces in the 100, Mr Brown, 52, who lives in Birkenhead, will also be including people whose work he has admired at a personal level.

In this way, those who want to see celebrities such as Ken Dodd, Willie Russell, Dean Sullivan and many other will not be disappointed.

But there will also be less familiar figures.

Mr Brown, 44, the son of an insurance salesman, who was a pupil at the Blessed Sacrament School, Walton, Liverpool, before the family crossed the river, hopes that his portraits will together capture the special character of Merseyside.

When seen as a whole, they should give viewers an idea of why his Merseysiders have been so important to the development of Britain.

The lesser-known figures will include a hotel manager, a doctor, community workers, clergymen, authors and journalists.

Mr Brown, who has a studio in Duke Street, Liverpool, hopes to have the first 20 paintings completed by the end of this year.

The father-of-four said: "It is a huge undertaking. I have never attempted anything like it before. But I am determined to do it."

He and his wife, Lorriane, are approaching leading galleries and other locations about staging exhibitions of the portraits throughout

2007. The Williamson Art Gallery in Birkenhead has already agreed to show them.

Mr Brown's past portraits have included the late Brian Epstein. He painted and designed the image of St Anthony's Church used to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Scotland Road, Liverpool, in 2003.

His works, including the famous waterfronts, have been exhibited at venues across Merseyside.

* A FEATURE about Tony and his work will appear on the centre pages of tomorrow's Daily Post.

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