

exhibition

Andrea Charters

Anarchy in Woolacombe

TAKE up a radical position with Peter Bright, who is borderline anarchic in his thinking, and equally bold in his art, which you can now see at the Landmark Theatre's Café Gallery in Ilfracombe.

As a punk performer in the 70s – playing with the likes of Adam Ant and the Cure – Peter's earned his anarchic stripes, so if you can't be radical when you meet him, be robust: he's likely to challenge the boundaries of your comfort zones.

You need to navigate a fine line between tongue-in-cheek and many a true word spoken in jest when he talks – and might wonder which to opt for

when you discover one of his paintings is called *Napalm Ex-moor National Park* – particularly since his show is called *Allergies*.

The question draws a provocative response:

"There's lots of stuff about the regeneration of North Devon as an area, bringing in new businesses, turning farmers into crafts people – in reality, that's just rubbish.

"If you're going to regenerate an area, you've got to demolish it and build hundreds of factories, or hundreds of shopping centres

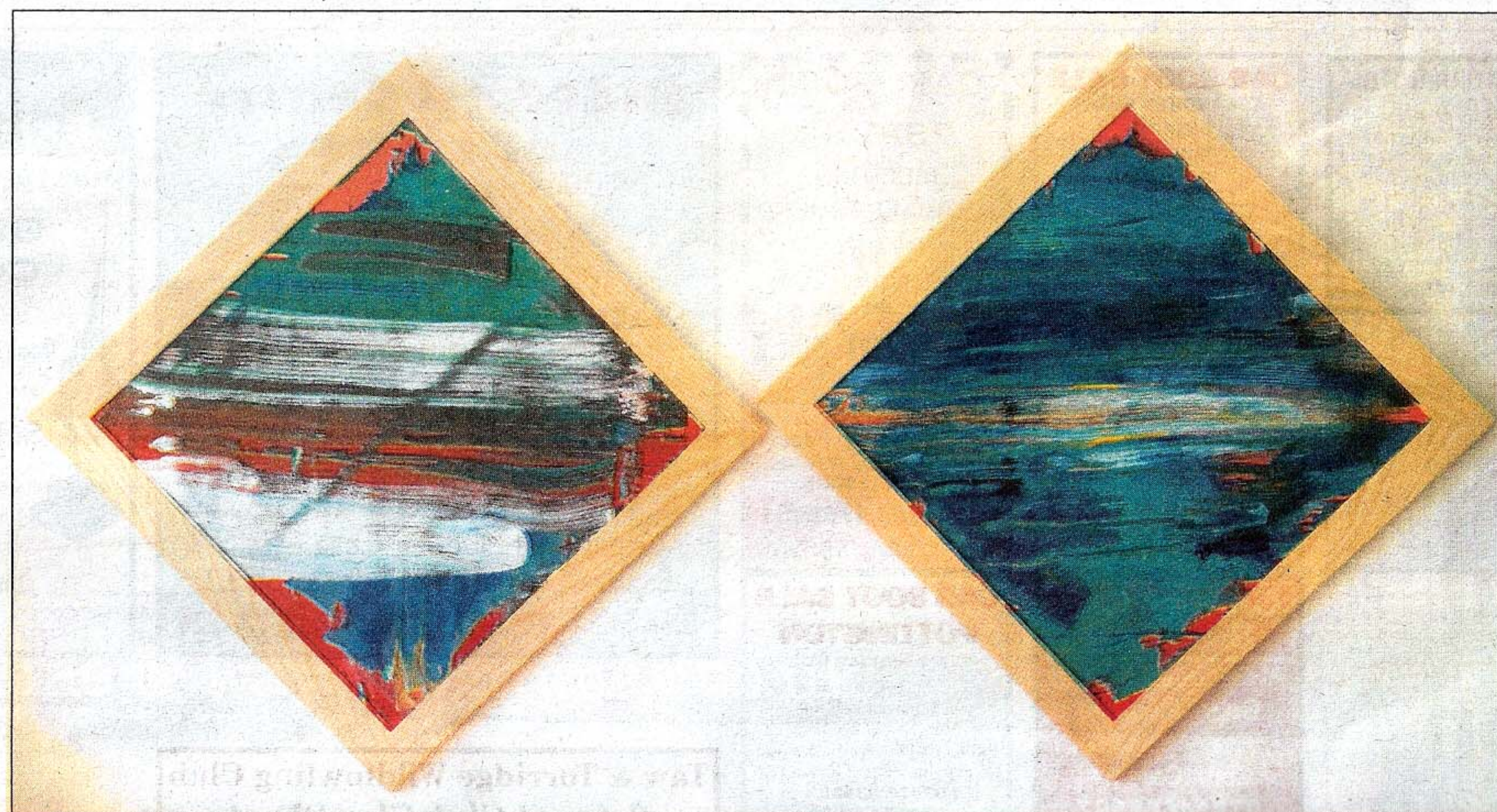
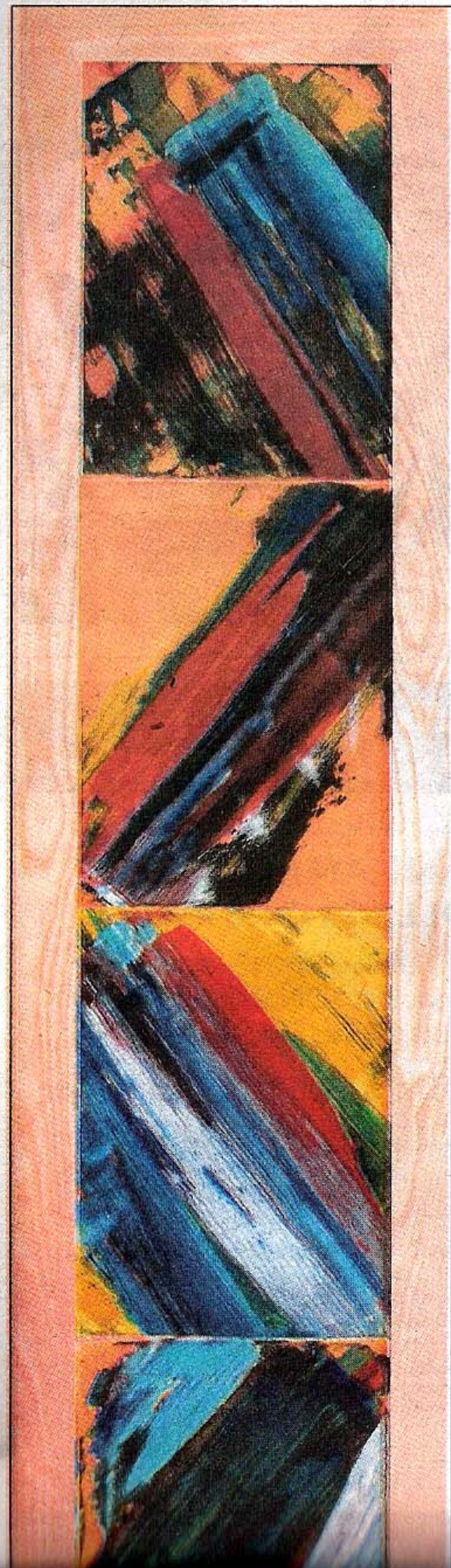
"I wouldn't actually want to do it, but if you're realistic about regeneration you're not going to do it by just opening a

small office in a barn somewhere – it has to be more radical than that. You have to create jobs. You have to create wealth – and artists just aren't going to create wealth – except for one inhabitant, of course."

That said, Peter sold a large percentage of his exhibition before it was even on the walls of the Landmark.

Peter's no stranger to success, having made page two of the Financial Times with his extraordinary – certainly radical – business launch of inmemoryof.co.uk.

Having been a monumental mason – a craftsman who makes gravestones – Peter was aware families were often frustrated by the restrictions they



faced on the wording they wished to have on the headstones of their deceased loved ones.

inmemoryof.co.uk was an online alternative.

Peter said: "In a sense that was an artist – me – looking at a business, which I'd grown, and that almost came like a networking piece."

Outside the boxes is where this artist thinks and it's evident not only in his art, but in his writing. Peter's blog (*My art and my disease*) is well worth a read, and you can check out his music, too, by logging on to: www.peter-bright.co.uk.

■ Above: Woolacombe based artist Peter Bright suffers from allergies – the name of his exhibition currently showing at the Landmark Theatre's Café Gallery in Ilfracombe.

Left: *Weedkiller over Clematis*. Photos Mike Southon Ref No 0708-131_03