

FROM BROKEN TO BEAUTIFUL

THE CAN-DO RESTORATION ARTISTS WITH A WORLD-CLASS REPUTATION.

In an unassuming warehouse in the heart of industrial Auckland there's a treasure trove of fascinating objects in varying states of repair.

At first glance you have to wonder why many of them are here at all, but this is Wrightway Studios, undoubtedly the country's most unique art restoration house. Antiques and objets d'art from some of the most valuable collections in the country sit amongst quaint and quirky pieces with sentimental value only.

This is the place of miracles, where highly skilled restoration artists transform seemingly unsalvageable items to their former glory. Damaged and broken crystal, glassware, fine china, porcelain, detailed woodwork, marble statues, original paintings, antique wicker prams and a host of intricate and ornate treasures await the healing hands of this unique team of artisans. Their painstaking, time-consuming work requires great skill and patience but has earned this business international acclaim. Clients from all over the world send work here for the favourable results and competitive prices. Wrightway Studios' owner Ross Stewart, a former community policeman from St Heliers, says the time-consuming, exacting nature of the restoration work means it really becomes a labour of love. "It's satisfying work and very rewarding to see the reaction of customers to the final result – some people are reduced to tears," says Ross. Restoration can sometimes cost hundreds of dollars more than the object's market value, but to the owners, sentimental value is priceless.

Wrightway Studios, Ph 09 570 5741 or visit www.restoration-artists.co.nz.



Above: One of Wrightway Studio's artisans preparing a broken figurine for repair. While the value of an item is diminished by damage, oftentimes the sentimental value for a client is restored knowing the item is returned to the way it once was. Below: More than 40 hours can go into the repair of a treasured ornament.

