



Helen Jones Moss Vale
email helen.jones@yourtimes.com.au

Hot Art Cerebral & provocative art embracing culture, society & nature...

Indigenous Aboriginal Works on Canvas

Throughout June the Milk Factory Gallery promises an exciting exhibition of indigenous Aboriginal works on canvas from emerging and established artists who hail from the outback. Included are works from the remarkable late Minnie Pwerle, who by all accounts was virtually unstoppable once she began painting on canvas well into her seventies, having honed her creative skills as a ritual body painter for women's ceremonies (awelye) before graduating to batik painting, then canvas. In the six years prior to her death, Minnie reportedly prolifically painted herself into Indigenous Australian art history and numerous galleries and collections throughout the world. Two of the seven well-known and collected

Petyarre sisters are also represented, with Gloria's highly abstract tonal and dynamic 'Bush Medicine' paintings and Violet's two 'Body Paint' works featuring strong structural and colourful linear patterns.

When Walala Tjapaltjarri and eight other relatives of the hunter-gatherer Pintupi Tribe walked out of the desert in Western Australia in 1984 to make their first contact with European Society, they created international headlines and became known as 'The Lost Tribe'. Introduced to painting two years later, Walala initially produced classic Pintupi designs until his style quickly evolved into the abstract rectangular shapes representing the secret song cycles sacred to initiated men for which he is now acclaimed. Traditional medicine man and self-taught artist, the internationally collected William Sandy usually features dingo, emu, women or green bean (puya) in his painting. His works in this exhibition centre around emu, which symbolise equality between males and females.

An important influence on a new generation of painters, Ronnie Tjampitjinpa's fluid works linking ancient stories with modern media feature the geometric designs of the traditional men's Tingari Cycle stories using colours ranging from monochromatic blacks and whites to brilliant clear colouration to represent fire and rain dreamings. Talented emerging artist Julie Nangala Robinson creates her own visual language to express the story and culture of her ancestors using graphically minimal and contemporary designs. Her works centre on the rocky outcrops and deep water springs and salty ground of her country Pirlinyanu.

Remarkable stories, spirited works.

'Indigenous Aboriginal Works on Canvas' from 26th May to 26th June 2007 at The Milk Factory Gallery, Exhibition Space & Cafe, 31 Station St Bowral.

Alvaro Painting Prize

\$5000 is up for grabs in the Alvaro Painting Prize in late June. Entries will be accepted on 23rd June from 10.00am until 1pm. Exhibiting from 28th June til 8th July, with judging and the official opening by Elizabeth Cummings on **Thursday 28th June** at 5.30pm. Enquiries to Fiona on 48614093 weekday mornings.

Celebrating Nature

Eschewing the evocative Turner-esque landscapes for which she is known and which depict the big skies, changing weather and coastal colours viewed from her stunning retreat, South Coast artist Veronica O'Leary has turned to her muse – the native environment – to create a series of mixed media drawings for her 'Drawn from Nature' exhibition at Sturt. Backed by an Honors degree in Literature and a Masters in Visual Art, artist and teacher O'Leary attributes the development of her prodigious sketching skills to working for the ABC in Darwin as she churned out portraits of Lindy Chamberlain in Court for the evening news.

Casting her microscopic eye over her surrounds, O'Leary combines contemporary ideology and consciousness of the fragility of the environment with her love of drawing and interest in the notion of text as a valid part of drawing and painting to create exquisite botanical works for a modern audience. Her often intimate, finely detailed drawings of native plants comprise sensuous gestural forms writhing in pen and ink, with gouache and resistant washes to create a layered effect.

Recommended for all art and nature lovers!

'Drawn from Nature', mixed media drawings by Veronica O'Leary at Sturt Gallery, Range Road Mittagong from June 17th to July 22nd 2007. To be opened at 6pm Monday 25th June.

Winter @ The Bell Gallery

The Winter Exhibition at the Bell Gallery promises fine works from established artists. Worth mentioning are two Orang-utan pieces from Margaret Woodward and 'Pears', a monotype (one off print), by Peter Hickey, who is also busy preparing his Venice folio for their upcoming September Italian Show.

'Winter', from June 17th 2007 The Bell Gallery, Jellore Street Berrima



PETER HICKEY PEARS



The Art of Ideas and Issues

Traditionally home to the largest population of recently arrived immigrants and refugees, Western Sydney has always been rich in varying cultures and barometer to the times. Ground-breaking collaborations between the arts and community have recently resulted in three exciting and gritty exhibitions at Campbelltown Arts Centre.

Chronicling the layers of creating art in exile, eight artists from refugee and migrant backgrounds have splashed colour, scattered words and contested international borders in an exhibition entitled 'Dis/place: Making Work in Exile', the culmination of a successful two year partnership with the Museum of Contemporary Art and Information and Cultural Exchange. According to Lisa Havilah, the Director of Campbelltown Arts Centre, the exhibition "confronts some of the burning questions of our contemporary situation – paranoia about the 'other', the fear of 'terror' expressed in formal policies of detention and punishment, the embodied experiences of torture, pain, war and displacement, and the longing for, or the confusion about home." Works include private and intimate video conversations and posters produced in Pakistan by two artists after their failed attempt to migrate to Australia. Kurdish artist Sardar Sinjawi's work embodies his own experience of fleeing northern Iraq into Turkey following the first Gulf war and George Bush senior's call to the Kurds to 'rise up' against Saddam Hussein, while Min Kyaw from Burma has written a poem that chronicles his own experience of seeking asylum in Australia.

'A Family Guide to Deception: Parts 1 to 8' is a new project developed by Thomas Knox Arnold and Benson Au, graduates and recipients of the 2007 Campbelltown Arts Centre and University of Western Sydney Scholarship which was established in 2004 to provide professional development support to young and emerging artists as they leave tertiary study to embark upon a career as professional artists. Since receiving the Scholarship, Arnold and Au have worked closely with Campbelltown Arts Centre to conceptualise their work for their project which involves an installation of fifteen contemporary works to engage viewers in considering some of the issues facing communities today.

'The Glittering City' is a powerful installation by Jamil Yamani which explores contemporary cultural and political issues associated with forced withdrawal from homeland. Yamani deftly conveys the experience of migration and its symbolic relationship with Australia's coast by juxtaposing two geographic sites – the Australian coastal border and Kakuma, a refugee camp near the Kenyan/Sudanese border. Provocative, compelling works.

'Dis/place: Making Work in Exile', 'A Family Guide to Deception: Parts 1 to 8' and 'The Glittering City', Until 1st July 2007 at Campbelltown Arts Centre, Cnr Camden and Appin Rds, Campbelltown, Ph: 4645 4100 www.campbelltown.nsw.gov.au

Coffee Concerts

In association with Musica Viva, the first of a series of morning coffee and concerts starts on June 13th. Featuring one of Australia's most highly regarded performance ensembles, 'Blindman's Holiday', a capella group specialising in world music and new Australian compositions.

Campbelltown Arts Centre, Cnr Camden & Appin Rds, Campbelltown, Phone 4645 4100 www.campbelltown.nsw.gov.au

Future Art for the diary

- **Elwyn Lynn.** Selected mixed media on canvas works of renowned Australian teacher, writer, art critic, curator and artist Elwyn Lynn will be featured at The Milk Factory Gallery **30th June to 17th July.**
- **'Surface Marc's'** is an exhibition of works created across eighteen months by Certificate IV Fine Arts students at Moss Vale TAFE. Featuring works by Maxine Green, Amanda Duncan, Robin Coombs and Cecelia Vincent. **29 July - 26 August**
- **Textiles by Melanie Olde** **29th July to 26th August 2007** Sturt, Range Road Mittagong.



VERONICA O'LEARY BRANKSIA FOREST, MIDDLE BEACH

SARDAR SINJAWI AFTER A BEAM OLF LIGHT



BENSON AU & THOMAS KNOX ARNOLD DEMOCRACY IV, UNTITLED 2



VERONICA O'LEARY BANKSIA'S



JAMIL YAMANI COASTLINE