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Hot Art May brings the return of master craftspeople and a prodigal son

Mastercraft at Sturt

Given that Sturt was established specifically to provide educational balance by linking intellect and creativity, the upcoming exhibition celebrating the Artist-in-Residence program at Sturt exemplifies the Centre's raison d'être. The unique program is designed to enhance existing courses by bringing experienced and skilled international and Australian craftspeople to Sturt for two to three months to explore and further develop their craft, energise existing studios, teach students in short courses and conduct public lectures, their visit culminating in an exhibition of their works at Sturt Gallery.

Current Artist-in-Residence is the esteemed and unconventional Japanese ceramacist Koie Ryoji, who has managed to squeeze in a stint at Sturt between six exhibitions concurring around the world and appearances in Korea and Paris. Born in the traditional Japanese ceramic town of Tokoname in 1938, growing up in a country ravaged by war, and at the forefront of the ceramic art scene since 1962, Mr Ryoji is revered across the world for his groundbreaking works which transcend borders and language to make political, social and artistic statements. Dubbed the 'wild man' of the ceramic art world for his spirited approach and breathtaking constitution, Mr Ryoji's free-flowing works are provocative and inspiring.

Co-inciding with his visit and to celebrate the art of the eighteen other artists-in-residence who have visited Sturt during the past eight years, the 'New Directions' exhibition brings together Mr Ryoji's Sturt-created ceramics and works of other visiting international and Australian potters and artists across a range of media including weaving, textiles, jewellery, design, basketry and wood.

Stunning pieces from master craftspeople.

New Directions at Sturt Gallery Range Road Mittagong from May 20th to 10th June 2007. To be opened at 11am Sunday 20th May by Professor Amanda Lawson, Head of Visual Art and Design at the University of Wollongong.



KOIE RYOJI AT STURT



VICTOR GREENAWAY BEAKER AT STURT



SVEND BAYER LARGE URN (UNAGAWA FIRED)

Glen Preece Solo

With successful back to back exhibitions in Sydney, Paris and London contributing to a local solo exhibition hiatus of twelve years plus, renowned artist and long-term Highlands resident Glen Preece is holding an exhibition of his latest works at The Milk Factory Gallery. By all accounts an exhibition well worth the wait.

Sydney-born and raised Preece realised from a young age that painting was his passion, his destiny. Graduating from drawing the robots and spaceships endemic to his era, age and gender he created his first marketable paintings at age ten and promptly used the proceeds of his first sale to finance the purchase of an easel, oils and canvas. He didn't look back. A stint at Art School and Julian Ashton followed, but Preece quickly found the development of his art flourished when he decided to pursue painting on his own.

Influenced by his environment, Preece's paintings are colourful, sometimes satirical interpretations of everyday life and experiences. Initially inspired by the representational art of the French and Australian Impressionists, his work also reflects his love of the freedom and style of the Expressionists, the sense of harmony and design of the Fauves, the highly personal style of Modigliani and the magic, humour and fantasy of Chagall. The current exhibition comprises an array of up to thirty story-telling oils on board and canvas ranging from 'The Story of the Coloured Sands' based on the story told by an aboriginal elder in North Queensland to the anti-war 'Lines of Thought' to the music-based 'Composition in C Minor' and the artist's favourite, 'A Woman on Exhibition'.

Enchanting, uplifting works.

Glen Preece Solo from 4th to 24th May 2007 at The Milk Factory Gallery, Exhibition Space & Cafe, 31 Station St Bowral.



GLEN PREECE GIRL IN LOVE, OIL ON CANVAS

Going Hungary

Mid-May sees local artist Robyn Kinsela off on a four week Artist Residency in Hungary. Robyn intends to spend a few days in Budapest and most of the time in Balatron, where she will research and further develop her craft to create a body of work for future exhibitions both here and in Hungary. Controlled by limitations due to luggage constraints, at this point Robyn plans to develop works using digital imagery, lightweight rice papers and anything she can find there. Upon her return, Robyn will exhibit her work and be available to give talks and lectures on her journey. Bon Voyage!

BDAS Youth Exhibition

Attention young artists! Its time again for the annual Bowral (previously Berrima) & District Art Society's Annual Youth Exhibition to be judged by Glen Preece. With categories for age 12 to 21, entries will be accepted on Saturday 12th May between 10.00am and 1pm at the BDAS Gallery.

From Tuesday 15th May until Tuesday 22nd May, Opening at 5.30pm, Tuesday 15th May. BDAS Gallery, 1 Short St, Bowral, PH 4861 4093. All entries must be suitably prepared for hanging - framed unless on canvas.



JULIE RYDER IN FRONT OF HER FABRICS

'Woonjeegaribay' Aboriginal Film Festival

The second annual three-day 'Woonjeegaribay' (Aboriginal for Wingecarribee) Aboriginal Film Festival again celebrates the multiple layers of culture and creative talent of Australian Aboriginal film makers. Screenings include the recently released 'Kanyini', along with several 'shorts' and documentaries and the groundbreaking and poignant 'The Chant of Jimmy Blacksmith'.

May 25th, 26th and 27th 2007 at the New Empire Cinema, Bong Bong Street, Bowral. Bookings are limited. Phone: 4861 4676

Future Art for the diary

Sturt Winter School. Look out for the 2007 Winter School offering a range of courses in the arts from painting, drawing, basketry, cartooning, creative writing, print, painting, wood, and ceramics.

From June 25th to 29th 2007 at Sturt, Range Road Mittagong. For more information: www.sturt.nsw.edu.au/course_winter.htm

Indigenous Aboriginal Works on Canvas

From emerging and established artists from 26th May to 26th June 2007 at The Milk Factory Gallery, Bowral.

Pastels by Veronica O'Leary

From 17th June to 22nd July 2007 at Sturt, Range Road Mittagong.



VANESSA SAMUELS JEWELLERY AT STURT