

OUTSTANDING WOMEN ARTISTS

A strong show of Paintings, Prints and Watercolours by Nine OUTSTANDING WOMEN ARTISTS is exhibited at the Media House Gallery, 655 Collins Street, Docklands from April 27 - June 26, 2015. The exhibition highlights the diversity, versatility and sensitivity of women artists in their contemporary art practice.

Included are:

Jacquie Blight, Di Crawford, Betina Fauvel-Ogden, Louise Foletta, Jacqui Grantford, Annie On Lee, Heather Shimmen, Barbara Tyson and Christine Wrest-Smith.

'Nature is an endless source of wonder and inspiration', says Jacquie Blight. In her delightful *Gum Nut Series*, she captures this inspiration beautifully and her *Bushscape 5* is included as part of a display by international artists on the Screen Project at the Saatchi Gallery, London. *Sunlight on Bark* reflects her mastery of the myriad effects of light.

Di Crawford's canvases explode with rich colour and vibrancy. Her exceptional fishes have woven through them symbolism and patterns, which reflect her fascination with indigenous art. The images chosen for this show, inspired mainly from her travels into remote parts of Australia, are strong expressions of shape, colour and texture. They reflect the sheer beauty of these creatures as well as the extraordinary environment in which they live.

Fascinated with the human form, Betina Fauvel-Ogden features portraits and figure works in the show. She won the NSW Premier's Literary Award for the children's book *A RABBIT NAMED HARRIS* in 1987. She has illustrated 15 Australia Post stamps and 8 stamps for the United Nations. Painting mainly in oil, Betina has been the recipient of numerous awards & commendations over her substantial artistic career.

Louise Foletta's love of the landscape has taken her to many interesting places all over the globe. She chooses to work in watercolour as the flexibility of the medium allows her to create rich and wonderful textures, as is depicted so superbly in *The Mighty but fragile Murray* and *Ned's Corner - Patterns of Change*. She also uses abstract elements to make the watercolours more powerful and contemporary as seen in her *Lake Hart: Double Image*.

Jacqui Grantford focuses on portraiture. The capturing of Jacki Weaver on canvas won her the People's Choice Award at the Black Swan Portrait Prize and a Certificate of Excellence from the Portrait Society of America. Her work has been featured in *American Art Collector & International Artist*. She says 'the essence of who we are never changes and that's what I love to portray.'

Graphic Designer/Illustrator/Ceramic Artist & Painter, Annie On Lee, presents her 'Eyes on Nature Series'. She says, 'twelve years ago I moved from the concrete jungle, Hong Kong, to this garden City of Melbourne. There are two things in this country which fascinate me, the eyes of the multi-national people and the natural beauty in this land. Every pair of eyes I meet are different and individual, no pairs are the same; every tree, rock, flower is unique and they are all beautiful.'

Printmaking has been Heather Shimmen's art practice since the 1970's. She draws elements from childhood memories, personal experience, environmental & folkloric issues in creating her extraordinary works on paper. She says 'there is an evocation in the line I make that expresses my love of the engraved mark although my work emerges in the medium of linocuts.'

'My style is driven by freedom of the brush, almost abstracted, then, as the eye is drawn closer to the feature, it focuses on a part of realism creating that feeling of 'being there' ' says Barbara Tyson. Her *The Red Shoes & Takes Two*, both focus on her passion for dance and free expression. A 'water' theme has been a main element in her work - light on water, through water, reflection of and refractions in water have captured her imagination, shown here in *Reflecting* and *Gene Pool*.

Environment, territory and human connections to land are re-occurring themes in the impressive paintings by Christine Wrest-Smith, as beautifully depicted in the 'Nest Series' portrayed in this exhibition. Her *Baby Bird* is especially beautiful and delicate. The *portrait of Graeme Drendel* and *Eo Mugna* also indicate the versatility of Christine's work.

OUTSTANDING WOMEN ARTISTS is an exhibition which shines the spotlight on these 9 multi-award winning Women Artists, celebrating their achievements and enormous talents. "A not-to-be missed display filled with inspiration". says Exhibition Manager/Curator, Jacqueline Taylor OAM. The Exhibition is presented by Ozlink Entertainment.

WHAT: *OUTSTANDING WOMEN ARTISTS*
Paintings, Prints & Watercolours

WHERE: Media House Gallery, 655 Collins St., Docklands

WHEN: April 27 - June 26, 2015

Gallery Hours: Mondays - Fridays 7 am - 7 pm Closed weekends

COST: FREE ADMISSION

For further information, images and interviews please contact:
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