

Media  
Release



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## **Bent Art 2009 – A Resounding Success**

Bent Art 2009 (Australia's largest exhibition of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender art), was the most successful in the event's 5-year history.

Sales exceeded \$13,000 with 30 works sold and well over 800 people visiting the exhibition during the June long weekend. Some 48 artists from throughout New South Wales participated in the exhibition.

Opening Night saw close to 300 people pack the Katoomba Civic Centre, with Deputy Mayor of the Blue Mountains City Council, Janet Mays, making the formal opening address and Rolling Wines of Orange providing wines from their award-winning label.

Winner of the \$1000 Bent Art Prize (sponsored by Wall To Wall Real Estate) was Michael Burge and winner of the \$500 Peoples Choice Prize (sponsored by Wentworth Falls Animal Hospital) was Valerie Ingham.

Category winners for painting, photography, sculpture and alternative media were respectively - Pamela Hourani, Jocelyn Street, Peter Williamson and James Blackwell.

"This year we made a concerted effort to promote Bent Art to the wider LGBT and non-LGBT community in New South Wales and our efforts paid off with record sales and visitors and a truly diverse range of artworks and art mediums" said Bent Art Vice President Linsi Braith

"In making Bent Art 2009 so successful we had fantastic support from the Blue Mountains business and creative communities, especially our major sponsors, and a large number of volunteers".

“When you take into account the artists, sponsors, volunteers and visitors to the exhibition, more than 1,000 people contributed to the event’s success. We now have a really solid platform on which to build Bent Art for the future” said Ms Braith

The Bent Art 2009 exhibition was photographed by Blue Mountains photographer, Julie Martin, and can be viewed on the Bent Art website at [www.bentart.com.au](http://www.bentart.com.au).

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