



MEDIA RELEASE
APRIL 6 2010

2010 bentART on track to be yet again Australia's largest Lesbian and Gay Art Exhibition.

With less than 3 months now to the 2010 bentART Exhibition, it's time to be putting the dates into your calendar. The sixth Exhibition opening night is on Friday the 11th June and runs until the following Monday, 14th June in the Blue Mountains.

Last year we had 48 artists enter their works with 30 being sold and sales totaling over \$13000. More than 800 people saw the exhibition over the 4 day long weekend.

Remember that this year we have a change of venue, with the exhibition being held at the **Wentworth Falls School of Arts**, 217-219 Great Western Highway, **Wentworth Falls**.

For all the artists out there, there is good news concerning entries this year. Due to the kind generosity of sponsors the prize money is more than doubled from 2009 – now being over \$5,000 in total. Plus, we have several new categories to encourage wider participation amongst the GLBT community; a **New Entrant Award** for those who have not submitted art in previous exhibitions, a **Youth Award** for young GLBT artists under 25 and an **Aboriginal Award** for GLBT indigenous artists. These awards are valued at **\$300** each. The **2010 Bent Art** award is valued at **\$1500 this year** and **four category awards** (painting, sculpture, photography and alternative media plus the **Peoples' Choice** award at **\$500** each.

This year we are also accepting entries from across Australia. We have also extended acceptable media to "bent reel" in the form of original short videos on DVD.

We are very pleased to have again Wall to Wall Real Estate sponsoring the Bent Art Award and welcome The Alex Hotel (Leura) as a new Platinum sponsor. As well, we continue to have strong sponsorship support from Blue Mountains and other regional business and individuals.

Please encourage artists that you know that qualify for any of these awards to submit so we have a vibrant and diverse exhibition.

For further details of Award categories, entry conditions and sponsors see our website.

The judging of the bentART award and the four category prizes will be undertaken by John Kirkman, who previously ran the Penrith Regional Gallery and prior to that was Curator /

Manager at the Australian Museum. John is currently CEO of Penrith Performing & Visual Arts Centre. Joining John in the judging will be Geoff White from Katoomba Fine Arts gallery on Lurline St. Geoff will be judge the New Entrant and the Youth award. We are currently organizing for the Aboriginal Bent Artist Award to be judged by an Aboriginal artist. Curation of the exhibition will be undertaken by Sophie Seeger and Jane Canfield. Sophie, an artist herself, has considerable experience in gallery management and curation, while Jane is an artist who works across a range of media and has strong exhibition experience. We are fortunate to have such a skilled combination in judging and curation. Sincere thanks for all for donating their time and expertise.

Finally, the opening night is set to be a very social affair again this year with wines once more being supplied by Rolling Wines of Orange and catering by Richard Moon and the Blue M café of Katoomba. With good wine, fine food, friends new and old and wonderful art all around, it's bound to be a night to remember it – so don't miss it!

FOR MORE INFORMATION & ENTRY FORMS GO TO www.bentart.com.au

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