

MEDIA RELEASE March 23 2011



2011 bentART to be yet again Australia's largest Lesbian and Gay Art Exhibition.

With less than 3 months to go to the 2011 bentART Exhibition, it's time to be putting the dates into your calendar, and if you are a bent artist, to be getting your work together. The seventh Exhibition opening night is on Friday the 10th and runs until the following Monday, 13th June in the Blue Mountains.

Last year we had 55 artists enter their works with 23% of works being sold and sales totaling over \$11000. More than 1000 people visited the exhibition over the 4 day period.

The Exhibition will again be 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 continues to be over \$5,000 in total. Plus this year we are offering a new category award for print making or drawing. The **2011 bentArt** award is valued at **\$1500** and the **five category awards at \$500**. Category awards **will be available in painting**, photography, print making or drawing, sculpture, and all other/ alternative media plus the **Peoples' Choice** award. The bentART prize and category awards will be announced on the Opening Night and the Peoples Choice on the website.

This year we are once more encouraging entries from across Australia.

We are very pleased to have again The Alexandra Hotel (Leura) as a Platinum sponsor. The Alex Hotel is sponsoring the Bent Art Award. Global Values Xchange (GVX) has upgraded their sponsorship from last year to become a Platinum sponsor and will sponsor the Peoples Choice Award. As well, we continue to have strong sponsorship support from Blue Mountains and other regional businesses and individuals.

Please encourage visual 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 five category prizes will be undertaken by a panel of art experts. We are very fortunate that Sophie Seeger and Jane Canfield will again curate the Exhibition. 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 chef extraordinaire Richard Moon. 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

bentART is proud to be part of the Blue Mountains pinkFEST held over the June long weekend. For more information on other pinkFEST activities see www.pinkmountains.com.au

bentART 2011 wishes to thanks its major sponsors GVX Wentworth Falls & Alexandra Hotel, Leura



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