



BELCONNEN ARTS CENTRE

MEDIA RELEASE

14 September 2009

ABN: 63254459205
118 Emu Bank BELCONNEN ACT
PO Box 183 BELCONNEN ACT 2616
Phone: 02 6163 3300
Fax: 02 6173 3301
info@belconnenartscentre.com.au

READ: An installation of books exploring the impact of the inexorable march of technology on our everyday lives.

What: An installation of sculptural objects
Where: Foyer, Belconnen Arts Centre
118 Emu Bank BELCONNEN ACT
When Wednesday 16 September to Tuesday 6 October
Contact: Artist Maryann Mussared
0411361953
www.maryannmussared.com
mussared@netspeed.com.au

Belconnen artist Maryann Mussared is known for working in a wide variety of media, including textiles, paper, printmaking and acrylics and mixed media on canvas. Her long-time interest in texture and repetition find their way into most things she has created since graduating from the College of Fine Arts, UNSW in 1997. Mussared says of her latest obsession of folding the pages of books into sculptural shapes: "So many books and so little time to read them. And with the arrival of e-books, we don't even have to go to the local bookstore or library anymore. We just click a button, download to our ipod and take our e-book anywhere in our pocket". She says it is interesting how much she takes in from reading the top or bottom half of the page as she deftly folds the corners over. "My mother would be horrified if she could see what I was doing. Folding pages over to mark the place was forbidden as books were so valued in our home".

Mussared has found the process of creating her sculptures fits in well with her obsessive nature and has found the process quite meditative. She says: "In 2003 I drew over 15 kilometres of black lines in ink for the exhibition 'Plimsoll Line' and her work referencing street memorials to Holocaust victims in "Storylines" involved building many layers of glaze with a textured roller on canvas surfaces before gilding.

The READ installation was inspired by the Wilfredo Prieto's room-sized installation "White Library" at the Venice Biennale in 2007 but Mussared is also inspired by her original training in textiles and the strong references she sees in the closely folded pages to Elizabethan neck ruffs, and the traditional male Greek folk costume *foystanella* (skirt).

The installation is intended as visual dialogue about a number of challenges that face us in our everyday lives. Mussared is asking us to consider a number of issues. Are we the beneficiaries of the golden age of technology or victims of the seemingly unstoppable daily advances in technology? Will the e-book take over and render the printed paper book an obsolete object? And what will happen to all the billions of books on shelves around the world? Will they become decorative objects, colour-coded and turned into a feature walls? The State Library of Victoria has already done this in its main reading room, and interior design books often feature beautiful homes with walls of books co-ordinated in size and colour. Jennifer Byrne appears each week on the ABC's Book Club with a similar feature as a backdrop. Will a possible change in status from revered object to dust-collector place increased demands on our already overstretched landfill?



Belconnen Arts Centre is an ACT Government facility and is supported by the ACT Government

www.belconnenartscentre.com.au