



BELCONNEN ARTS CENTRE

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Exhibition opening: *Fibre, Naturally*
Time: 6pm, Friday 2 October
By: Dr Dianne Firth, Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture,
Faculty of Arts and Design, University of Canberra
Artists: Carol Divall, Jayne Goodes, Penelope Lee, Susan Pieterse,
Helen Roberts Hill, Peter Travis AM

The International Year of Fibre has inspired a group of energetic fibre artists to mount an exciting exhibition of artworks at the newly-opened Belconnen Arts Centre. *Fibre, Naturally* communicates the unique and ephemeral journeys in natural fibre of these six diverse artists.

Helen Roberts Hill says, "There is something magical, unique and very tactile about handmade paper." She has used handmade paper as the basis of her art for the last twelve years, using fibres such as banana trunks, pandanus, black bamboo, New Zealand flax and seaweed. From these materials she produces elegant, highly sculptural works which are redolent with the beauty of things unconventional, imperfect, impermanent and incomplete; the beauty of things modest and humble.

Penelope Lee's work explores the qualities of handmade cotton rag fibre as both paper and textile. Lee says, "My work has arisen out of a desire to explore the meaning of the codex as a tangible object and the way in which we read books as materials. Thus the focus of my work is the book – the pages, the cover – not as a way of containing or displaying my artwork but as the artwork itself."

The artistic career of Susan Pieterse began in 1999, when she extended her love of textiles to recycling fibres to produce handmade paper. Since then she has gone on to develop works exploring the multitudinous dimensions of fibre. Pieterse creates rich surface textures achieved by incorporating media as varied as string, feathers, and metal, delving deeply into the nature of each fibre until their aesthetic, conceptual and sculptural qualities are laid bare.

Jayne Goodes and Peter Travis' creations are linked by their exploration of colour. For Travis, "Colours are never isolated but are viewed in clusters, like musical cadence. What is before and what comes after changes the meaning. I prefer the use of dyed textile since it allows light to pass through it and present a luminous display of coloured imagery in the way of stained glass, while at the same time presenting reflected colour." Sydney based Goodes' felted woollen artworks explode with a sheer saturation of colour, explore the aesthetic possibilities of felt through delicate surface elaboration, and investigate the qualities of sculpted strips of suspended fabric.

Goulburn-based textile artist Carol Divall's work in the exhibition is influenced by literature, colour, nature, place and emotion. The result is a diverse practice reflecting these interests – stitching together the memories, secrets and thoughts of her viewers, weaving new worlds of imagination.

Exhibition continues until 18 October. Artists talks 3 & 17 October.

Gallery hours: 10:00am – 6:00pm Tuesday – Sunday



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

www.belconnenartscentre.com.au