



# MEDIA RELEASE

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BELCONNEN ARTS CENTRE

ABN: 63254459205

118 Emu Bank BELCONNEN ACT  
PO Box 183 BELCONNEN ACT 2617

Phone: 02 6163 3300

Fax: 02 6173 3301

info@belconnenartscentre.com.au

visit [www.belconnenartscentre.com.au](http://www.belconnenartscentre.com.au)

## Let your imagination run with *Libertea, Maternitea, Realitea*

An installation celebrating the 20th year of the Majura Women's Group Backyard Projects

Exhibition opening: 2:00pm Saturday 16 January 2010

To be opened by Deborah Clark, Curator of Visual Art, Canberra Museum and Gallery

**Exhibition continues** until Tuesday 9 February 2010

**Opening Hours:** 10:00am – 6:00pm Tuesday – Sunday

Belconnen Arts Centre is starting 2010 with a fabulous foyer installation, *Libertea, Maternitea, Realitea*, celebrating the 20th year of the Majura Women's Group Backyard Projects. These year-long community art projects which have taken place at the Downer Community Centre since 1989, have improved health and social outcomes for women with young children by involving them in art activities. For the 2009 Backyard Project, convening artist Ann McMahon has inspired participants to use recycled materials and basketry techniques to create sculptural works celebrating connections and friendships which have been forged over tea and conversations during the workshop sessions.

From the early part of the year when participants were learning basic technical skills, the women began experimenting with techniques using their own choice of materials to produce self-directed art works exploring the Project's tea party theme. Plant fibre, recycled fabric, wire, yarns, plastic and other items found around the domestic environment, have been refashioned into delightful sculptures of cups, bowls, teapots and a tablecloth and even delicious looking biscuits.

Come and join the tea party opening celebration at 2:00pm on Saturday 16 January with Canberra Museum and Gallery Curator of Visual Arts Deborah Clark, and enjoy some real cake, biscuits and beverages with the Majura Women's Group.

'Participating in the Backyard Project in 1991, when my children were young, has led me on a path of self-discovery and a career in the arts,' says Ann McMahon, 'and I am delighted to be back in 2009 as the convening artist.'

As a special program during the installation, Ann will be leading two very special soft sculpture workshops. The first, *Recycled Critters*, is part of Belconnen Arts Centre's School Holiday program. In this workshop, children from 6-14 years are invited to learn how to make cute animals with wire, shredded paper and yarn. Adults will also enjoy an opportunity to revisit the world of creative play with Ann during Belconnen Arts Centre's *Soft Animal Sculpture Workshop*.

**Recycled Critters workshop:** 12:00 – 4:00pm Wednesday 20 January. Materials cost: \$25

**Soft Sculpture Animals Workshop:** 1:00 – 5:00pm Sunday 31 January 2010. Materials cost: \$40

**For further information:** [www.belconnenartscentre.com.au](http://www.belconnenartscentre.com.au); Christine Watson, Program Manager

**Registrations essential:** 02 6173 3300

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