



BELCONNEN ARTS CENTRE

MEDIA RELEASE

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ABN: 63254459205
118 Emu Bank BELCONNEN ACT
PO Box 183 BELCONNEN ACT 2617
Phone: 02 6173 3300
Fax: 02 6173 3301
info@belconnenartscentre.com.au
www.belconnenartscentre.com.au

HONEY AND PEPPER

Inspiration can come from anywhere. This is where it lives.

Artists: Silvia Velez, Nasser Palangi, Farideh Zarriv, Fatemeh Palangi, Maiju Altpere-Woodhead and Fatima Killeen
Exhibition opening: 6:00pm Friday 5 February
To be opened by: Mary Porter, MLA AM
Exhibition continues: until Sunday 21 February
Meet the artists: 4:00pm Sunday 14 February
Opening Hours: 10:00am – 6:00pm Tuesday – Sunday

The ACT Multicultural Arts Officer and the ACT Community Arts Office are delighted to present *Honey and Pepper*. Featuring works by six artists from diverse backgrounds, who now call Canberra home, the exhibition explores issues of identity, belonging and place, and how these issues influence the art-making process. *Honey and Pepper* is not just a multicultural visual arts exhibition; it is a deep voyage through the culture, personality, substance and understanding of the past and present heritage of any human being. The exhibition provides a unique opportunity to see the great talent of these Canberra artists giving voice to these important social questions.

Honey and Pepper explores a number of issues deeply affecting the artists' experience in Australia and their home countries. Since migrating to Australia from Estonia sixteen years ago, **Maiju Altpere-Woodhead** finds that her sense of belonging has become increasingly divided. Maiju's body of work investigates the hybrid nature of memory and issues of personal meaning by using a ceramic mono-printing method that combines elements of classical intaglio and mono-print with ceramic materials and processes. By contrast, the work of Columbian-born **Silvia Velez** deals with her attachment to Belconnen's Lake Ginninderra. Her work is a celebration of the lake's beauty, space and sense of freedom, reflecting on the hope and peace she finds by its shores.

Fatima Killeen's installation pieces invite a dialogue about Islam, cross-cultural identity and global politics as viewed through a contemporary Australian experience. Her desire is for people to appreciate how beautiful Islamic culture is, and the peace inherent in its calligraphic traditions. **Farideh Zariv's** work explores the history and cultural meaning embedded in the delicate design and detail of the Iranian textile tradition. **Fatemeh Palangi's** works celebrate the talent of nomadic women in Iran whose art has long been displayed and appreciated in museums, galleries and in homes while their faces and names have always remained anonymous. **Nasser Palangi** uses an allegorical and symbolic style of portraiture to convey similarities of expression in people's faces across cultures, as human beings struggle with challenges posed by the nihilism of modern secular culture.

This project is presented by the ACT Multicultural Arts Officer and Community Arts Office, and is supported by the Australian Government Regional Arts Fund and the ACT Government.

Enquiries please contact: Jorge Bagnini, ACT Multicultural Arts Officer (02) 6230 5994 or Belconnen Arts Centre (02) 6173 3300 or info@belconnenartscentre.com.au

Belconnen Arts Centre is an ACT Government facility
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