



MEDIA RELEASE

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BELCONNEN ARTS CENTRE

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
visit www.belconnenartscentre.com.au

VALENTINE'S EVE ART MARKET

A fabulous environmentally-friendly art and design initiative of Belconnen Arts Centre Incorporated

Where: The Foyer, Belconnen Arts Centre
118 Emu Bank (cnr Benjamin Way), Belconnen

Art Market Hours: 12:00 – 5:00pm Saturday 13 February 2010

Opening by: Dr Maxine Cooper, Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment, ACT

Entertainment: Prosperous Mountain Lion Dance celebrating Chinese New Year at 2:45pm

The afternoon of Saturday 13 February will see the Foyer of the Belconnen Arts Centre filled with 'loving' creations made by some of Canberra's best designers and artisans, using environmentally-friendly materials and processes.

The Valentine's Eve Market is the first of a series of environmentally-sustainable art markets celebrating each of nature's seasons, showcasing new ideas and designs. The producers are local Belconnen and regional artisans, and have been brought together in response to the desire of the local community to have a quality art market at the Arts Centre.

Dr Maxine Cooper, Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment in the ACT, will open the market. Dr Cooper's role is to promote initiatives and actions that work towards a sustainable society. Caring for the environment and creating a sustainable future for the ACT and Australia relies on creativity, good design and strong ethical practices. To this end the new art market endeavours to fulfill these goals and at the same time offer something of beauty, love, harmony, promise and pleasure – the key theme for this market.

Dr Cooper says, "In terms of reducing our ecological footprint, which is a measure of the resources used to support our lifestyles, buying gifts made by local artists is better than buying products that have travelled many miles. It is also a great experience to actually meet the artists." Market visitors will see paintings, prints and cards celebrating the joys of love and lovers, and discover a range of delectable gifts lovingly handmade by artists, craftspeople and designers to adorn, or otherwise give pleasure to their own very special Valentine. For those wanting to design clothes, Project Remake will be offering 1- and 2-hour workshops, so bring 2-5 interesting pieces from your wardrobe that you would like to renew into a fabulous creation of your own.

Featured work includes Judi Power Thompson's acrylic paintings and cards of lovers; fabulously colourful felted works by Anne Wilsford; prints and cards by Jo Hollier and funky baskets made by Jane Whitten from recycled materials. There will be jewellery made by Anne Greiner, Carolyn Brennan and Alexis Fraser from glass and fabric; bags and cushions made by Tamara Russell and gifts, cards and jewellery from Belconnen Artists Network. There are also wonderful sculptures by Barbara Jackson; recycled books by Maryann Mussared; a range of beautiful designed home-wares by Snowpea Inc. artists; and a range of fine ceramics by Esmee Smith.

For information contact: Christine Watson, Program Manager 02 6173 3300

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

