

BEST STREET STUDIO E-NEWS

Spring 2010

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'art for all'

FROM THE STUDIO

What's been happening at the Best Street Studios over this last long cold rainy winter term? There has certainly been enough action to keep us all warm and toasty!

The term began with Operation Art – where 200 kids aged 5-12 years from Riverina regional schools came to the Wagga Regional Art Gallery to experience intensive art activities over one week. The children printed, drew, collaged, painted and sculpted in clay. This was absolutely FULL ON! Friday was a bonus for teachers with Lisa teaching a workshop on operation art and a variety of hands on art activities. My head is still buzzing; I took so much from that week back to my studios at Best Street and beyond. Thank you to the Operation Art team for inviting me to be involved in this amazing event!

The **after school kids** have completed their dinner set, decorated in blue and white glaze based on the willow pattern design. They have hand crafted a mug, a plate, a soup/breakfast bowl, a serving platter, 2 dip/sauce bowls, and pepper and salt shakers. A big, big effort for 5-12 year olds!

To break up the intensity of making functional ware whose completion seemed so distant, the kids also made fish sculptures and bird houses. We drew with blue ink and sticks, charcoal, pencil and oil pastels. We try to draw every week, either a structured drawing exercise, or drawing up our designs for our clay work.

As Alan Peascod, Australia's exceptional clay artist said "Drawing reduces the amount of labour required for exploration. An expressive line can suggest 3 dimensional possibilities that may never otherwise have occurred".

Our **adult students** have been extremely busy, with an outpouring of ceramic work emerging from the kilns. The last of the jomon pots have been glazed and re-fired, with beautiful results. New students could not believe that they could make such large, lovely pots straight up on entering the studio.

We have seen many animal and bird sculptures – Milton and Marion have both made huge dogs (80 x 120cm) and we have an extraordinary range of chooks! *It never ceases to amaze me how many different interpretations of the good old chook can be created.*

We have been experimenting with a variety of surface decorative techniques through a series of test tiles and 'art quote tiles'. So far, we have looked at oxides, the use of frits (a sort of glass), over all of our range of clays. We have experimented with texture, stamping and sprigging and have been carving through underglazes with special carving tools to create patterns, text and pictures on clay tablets.

We have had a couple of workshops at the studios – **clay bird houses and big pears**. Wagga will have the best housed birds in the Riverina, and the pears are so big I will need a crane to lift them into the kiln.

The highlight this term has been my two trips out west - **Carrathool Public School and Wakool Public School**. Such warm welcomes and such enthusiasm for clay was fantastic!

At Carrathool the kids (and teachers) created beautiful 'Boats into the Future' – we examined a variety of boats, both historic and contemporary, river, lake and ocean, leisure and work boats. Then we imagined what we would take with us into the future on our boats – both practically and more

philosophically. The children came up with a surprising range of ideas: from food, water and fishing lines to family, pets, books, solar lights and money.

We made our boats from sheets of clay which the kids rolled out with a rolling pin, and then wrapped around newspaper amateurs (the skeleton of the sculpture). After constructing all morning the kids painted glaze onto their boats in the afternoon, and after packing everything into my car I sailed off across the billabong green of the beautiful Riverina landscape in full early spring bloom. Ahhhh... And to top all of this off I am heading back for another two days with the kids in late October ☺

The following week – I head to Wakool Public School. What fun! Moulamein Public School joined us on the Monday.

After driving for hours I pulled up at the Wakool Pub at 9pm, walked in and knew I was out west when I saw the dogs lying on the floor at their owner's feet!

These two days in Wakool could easily be eight days anywhere else! In just two days we managed to make 30 chooks, 26 fish, 10 owls, and 12 pears – and that was just the kids! On Monday night the ladies of the district came together for a workshop and made chooks. All of their work was designed, constructed and glazed in the 2-3 hour sessions.

Packing them all into my little Subaru station wagon was an exercise in 3 dimensional jig sawing! I NEED A UTE!!!!

A couple of wonderful trips – I had as much fun as all the kids! A big thanks to Carrathool, Wakool and Moulamein, especially Anna, Vicki and Julie and assorted Kathryn's, Cathy's and Kath's!

Check out the website for photos from these trips
<http://staging.beststreetstudios.com.au/pages/Gallery.html>

Kathryn Powderly

FEATURE STORY

Earth Hour inspired Arty Dinner Party

Wednesday night students were invited to an Arty Dinner Party where the menu consisted of three courses of art activities all done by candlelight.

Inspired by the Earth Hour earlier in the year, where we were encouraged to turn our lights off for an hour, I decided it would be fun to make art by candlelight. It grew from there...

Scouring wagga's op shops, we came up with boxes of candles, glass bowls, glasses and old silver platters, trays, sugar bowls, and a wide variety of candlesticks. Everything was cleaned, candles arranged on every ledge, shelf and table and art materials presented on silver and crystal!

Our menu consisted of:

Entree: Blue Pears – pears drawn in blue ink (using sticks) on circles of paper, then collaged for old Australian 1960's yearbooks

Main Course: Found Object Faces – faces constructed on plywood circles using bits and pieces from Kath's bower-bird collection of found objects.

Dessert: Pithy art quotes carved back into round clay tablets

Lots of fun and together, the theme of the night was "BLING". Milton won the 'Most Colourful' for his incredible hippy interpretation of bling. We think he's discovered his alter-ego ☺

We can't wait to do it all again next year! Watch the website for details.

UPCOMING CLASSES, COURSES & WORKSHOPS

Detailed event information is available on the Best Street Studios website at <http://www.besstreetstudios.com.au>

Portraiture in Pastel

Learn to 'see' what is there, not what you think is there.

When: Friday October 8 – Sunday October 10, 2010

Tutor: Regina Hona

Cost: \$300 per person (excluding materials and model fee)

This course is designed to cater for all levels but with the assumption that the student has a basic knowledge in the use of pastels and some understanding of tonal values, colours and observation of shapes. Regina will be focusing attention on composition, tone, contrast and light as well her method of achieving a likeness of the subject, whilst still retaining each student's personal interpretation of the subject and individual style of painting.

A live model will be used for the first two days, followed by painting a photo reference of your choice of subject on the third day. Advice will be given in the requirements list to produce a quality image to bring along.

Spirit of the Land Workshops

Workshop Date: Saturday October 9

Kids Workshop

9am – 12pm

\$35 per person

Hammers & Nails

Using recycled rustic odds and ends make a rustic work of art. Hammer together a frame for your biscuit tin bird sitting on a creatively designed wire nest.

Adults Workshop

2pm – 5pm

\$50 per person

Bird on Barbed Wire Fence

Wall art using recycled rural refuse

Make a corrugated iron frame and backing and then get creative with barbed wire and your tin/clay bird to design a unique wall art to display in your garden.

Bookings: sue-schneider@hotmail.com



Art to You Program

If you can't come to us, we'll come to you!

Best Street Studios artist Kathryn Powderly is well known for her hands-on fun workshops, for both adults and children. Kath is passionate about making art accessible to all and therefore regularly travels to conduct art workshops for community groups, schools, pre schools and other education institutes. Kath is well known for her clay and mosaic workshops but can teach many more mediums. Recently Kath has conducted workshops at Marrar Public School, Hay School of the Air, ABC Glenfield, Griffith Regional Gallery and Borambola Sport & Recreation Centre.

If you would like to discuss a workshop for your needs please contact our office today.

CLASSIFIEDS

Twilight Christmas Market & Art Sale Friday December 10 – Friday December 24, 2010

We are pleased to announce that Best Street Studios will be holding the annual Christmas sale in 2010. The show will commence with a twilight market on the evening of Friday December 10, and the sale will run through until Christmas Eve.

We are currently looking for expressions of interest from local Riverina artists to participate in the sale, with emphasis on representing a wide range of mediums from our very own local artists. As a guide we are looking for artists in the fields of sculpture, functional and non-functional ceramics, metal, wood, glass, jewellery, textiles, montage, mosaic or any other 3D art forms.

The sale is always a tremendous success for artists involved, providing an opportunity to sell work and raise your profile as an artist in the region. The sale targets and attracts an A1 crowd and with the focus on purchasing Christmas gifts, is always extremely popular.

Expressions of interest can be emailed to admin@beststreetstudios.com.au or posted to 26 Best Street Wagga, and must be received by **Tuesday October 12.**

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact Linda (0439 192 193) or Kath (0427 212 977).

Wagga's Muddi Markets

Finally Wagga has a Boutique Market for creative handmade goodies. This boutique market has been created to bring together the many talented makers, potters, artists, craftspeople, designers and hobbyist within our region.

It is a unique event fashioned to join those who create gorgeous things with the people who appreciate high quality, handmade wares.

All products are of the highest quality and have a boutique presentation. The Market has been designed to be the perfect marketplace for new brands and a strong retail outlet for wanting to reach their desired audience.

Located at the Wagga Beach Car Park under Marquees and open space stalls, the Market is open 9am to 4pm on the Second Saturday of the month. The 2010 dates include: Saturday Oct 9th, Nov 13th, Dec 11th and Dec 12th.

With over 25 Stall holders, a gourmet coffee vendor and live music this Market is sure to generate a creative atmosphere throughout our region. www.muddiboutiquemarkets.com for stall holder information.

Gift Certificates

Best Street Studios has the most creative present you can give for any occasion. Why not buy a Gift Certificate for a friend or relative so they can discover their artistic potential? Certificates can be purchased for any amount, a particular course, or for the value of the course of your choice. A Best Street Studios Gift Certificate makes a fabulous present for anyone.

Contact the office today to discuss the options

Best Street Studios Greeting Cards

2009 saw the launch of the long awaited Best Street Studio greeting cards. With eight gorgeous designs they are the perfect card for any occasion. We are currently sourcing distribution outlets and hope to have them in many retail stores throughout the Riverina in the coming months. In the meantime feel free to contact our office for purchases.

Visit the website to check out the designs www.beststreetstudios.com.au

Wagga Wagga novelty Tea Towels

The famous Wagga Wagga crow tea towels and wild women of Wagga Wagga tea towels have become an icon for Best Street Studios. Purchase yours today at the Wagga Wagga Visitor Information Centre, Wagga Wagga Art Gallery or Best Street Studios. We also take bulk wholesale orders for the tea towels.

We are pleased to announce that we will launch two new tea towel designs in July 2010 – keep an eye out for these.

Note: If you have anything art related that you would like to sell, swap or give-away please let us know. We will be more than happy to advertise it to our large mailing list...that is if we do not buy it first!

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

JUMP Mentorships 2011

Are you a young Australian artist on the cusp of a great career? JUMP directly supports the career development of artists aged 18-30 and in their first five years of professional practice, by facilitating mentorships with leading professionals in their chosen artform. As Australia's largest artist mentoring program, JUMP is supported by the Australia Council for the Arts, managed nationally by Youth Arts Queensland, and delivered in collaboration with state delivery partners.

Applications due: 22 October 2010

For more information <http://www.jumpmentoring.com.au/>

Free Artist Promotion

Easter Riverina Arts Program (ERAP) is looking for local artists to feature on the Home page of their website for one month.

To apply: Send five images and a 300 word bio to communications@erap.org.au

More Details: www.erap.org.au

USEFUL ARTS INFORMATION & READINGS

Artist careers research

The Australian Council for the Arts has released two new pieces of research which together paint a comprehensive picture of the working lives of Australia's 44,000 professional artists. The two projects – *Do you really expect to get paid?* by Professor David Throsby from Macquarie University and *What's your other job?* by Professor Stuart Cunningham from the Queensland University of Technology – both show that artists continue to struggle financially, earning a median income of just \$35,900 a year, including arts and non-arts related income.

Both reports and the research project summary are available for download from the Australia Council website <http://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/research/artists>

CONTACT US

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The Best Street Studios e-news is a free quarterly service provided by Best Street Studios. To subscribe or unsubscribe to the e-news or to contribute a story or article, please email adm@beststreetstudios.com.au

The Best Street Studios website at <http://www.beststreetstudios.com.au> has comprehensive information on workshops, courses, school programs, garden art and art sales, along with a fantastic kid's art page that has some fun kid's projects.

Imagination is much more important than knowledge...