

SWELL

SCULPTURE FESTIVAL

"Getting art out there"



Col Henry *Mother and Son* can be seen at the Swell Smalls Gallery from the 5th - 21st September at The Way of Design Gallery Pacific Parade Currumbin.

Composition

Issue Four August 2008

Welcome to *Composition*.

We have had an exciting year preparing for the 2008 exhibition and the days are passing by so quickly in the lead up to what will be a wonderful show of sculpture.

From the 12th September the natural seascape will come alive with sculptures of stone, wood and steel. The buzz of Swell Sculpture Festival will descend upon Currumbin Beach for another 10 days. The sculptures will be big, insightful and inspiring. Mark your calendars now for the 12th - 21st September.

What's on at Swell this year? To coincide with the exhibition we are hosting a Public Art Symposium. A great opportunity to engage in discussions prompted by expert speakers talking on the topic, *Public Art - An Object or An Experience*. How do we, the public, interact with public art and is it an essential part of our everyday life? Held at the Point Restaurant on Tuesday 16th September, the session includes great interaction with like-minded people, morning tea, lunch and a free sculpture exhibition! Tickets on sale now.

The Swell Smalls Gallery, an exhibition of smaller works by exhibiting artists is hosted by *The Way of Design Gallery*.

You will discover sculptures that are just as big in beauty and fascination but ... smaller! This exhibition starts on the 5th September.

As part of the Swell Kids Program and 'inspired by Christo', children can participate in kite making workshops during 9 days of the exhibition. With all of these kites lovingly formed, the children will be invited to participate in the exhibition close on the last Sunday which is a large scale installation on Currumbin Beach flying their kites. Come and experience the excitement and sculptural movement at 2pm on the 21st September.

On each weekend, the music stage will entertain you with sultry sounds and chefs from local cafes will tantalise your tastebuds with gourmet BBQs.

See you at Swell!

Ruth Della
Director



INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

SWELL NEWS!



ARTIST PROFILE



SWELL SMALLS GALLERY



PUBLIC ART SYMPOSIUM



a quarterly newsletter focused on getting art out there

Public Art.
An Object or an Experience?
Is it a waste of space
or does it energise
our public spaces and
transform our everyday
life?

Join in the discussion with...

Griffith University's Associate Professor Patricia Wise, Arts Queensland's Yenda Carson and Gold Coast City Council Cultural Development Officer, Andrew Trump, our keynote speakers.

Joining the panel for discussion is sculptor, Antone Bruinsma and Austrade's Ian Brazier.

The audience is encouraged to engage in the discussion.

BOOK NOW!

Public Art Symposium
Tuesday 16th September

9.30am - 3.30pm

The Point Restaurant Pacific Parade Currumbin
Tickets \$50 includes morning tea and lunch

Further information and registration forms available at:

www.swellsculpture.com.au



Swell NEWS



Balloon Down Under Artist Peer Award

This will interest all the artists..... a new award for 2008 is the Artist Peer Award, this gives the artists exhibiting at Swell Sculpture Festival an opportunity to vote for their favourite sculpture at the exhibition. Won't it be interesting to see how the votes swing!

The prize is a one hour balloon flight over the beautiful Gold Coast Hinterland for two people. Clean air and stunning views from Brisbane to Byron await the winning artist. Pure inspiration.

We thank Balloon Down Under for supporting the Artist Peer Award. www.balloondownunder.com.au

FACEBOOK - did you know that the Swell Sculpture Festival is on facebook? Why not join the group and share your thoughts, ideas and photographs!

SUCCESSFUL FUNDING

Swell Sculpture Festival was successful in its application for funding from the Regional Arts Development Fund for the 2008 Public Art Symposium. We are grateful for the support shown for this new initiative and look forward to hosting a successful Symposium that prompts and stimulates positive discussion within the community.



The Regional Arts Development Fund is a Queensland Government and Gold Coast City Council partnership to support local arts and culture.



Profile 03: Col Henry

When did you realise that you wanted to be a sculptor?

I have always loved making things from a small child. My early experiences as an apprentice Panelbeater allowed me, without my complete understanding, to develop skills and experience, and added to my later academic and artistic pursuits, the combination has given me a vision, that has allowed me to put 'on the ground', 'what is in my head', and 'make it stand up'. I became more passionate about my art in my mid twenties, as I have aged, the passion is still grows everyday.

What prompts your thoughts when considering concepts?

My ideas come from many places, a photo, a conversation, music, the wonder around me, and they come at the least expected times. I always sleep with a pencil and paper near my bed. Thoughts written down as my mind wanders while waking seem to have the most strength and validity. Answers come clearly and precisely, but only for a brief time, I have to write or sketch them down or they are gone in minutes.

What is your main medium when sculpting and how does this medium better convey your concepts than another?

I have no single medium, they all suit my purpose at different times and often combinations of medium are used. My recent work and medium have consumed me, 'Colcast and Pure Glass', a product and technique that I have developed over many years. It is lightweight, flexible, strong and is designed for installation inside or outside. The first fifty works were shown at a Solo Sculpture Exhibition at Galleria Aniela Sculpture Park in Kangaroo Valley in June 2007. From that exhibition, the works have changed incredibly, with inventive and innovative development, the works have gained many accolades and awards. This medium allows me to experiment, play and push boundaries quickly, with amazingly interesting and popular results.

What do you feel is the major difference between exhibiting at an outdoor exhibition like Swell Sculpture and an indoor space?

The sort of Sculpture I make needs large spaces to allow the works to have a commanding presence. Indoor venues, invariably have other competing and compromising works on the walls. Sculpture can enhance the outside environment, while allowing the viewer to "Go on a Journey", or 'Tell a Story'.

What is the most challenging artwork you have worked on and why was it so?

A self portrait, many years ago, of a larger than life size head, agreeing between reality and perception, and leaving 'my mark' was a daunting experience and an interesting reality check.

What is the funniest incident that has occurred while either sculpting or installing artwork?

Driving through town with a 3.5m flying lady tied to my roof rack, and seeing reactions from pedestrians and other drivers.

What is your favourite piece that you have worked on?

They are all favourites until I start my next sculpture. A series I carved of life sized spiritual figures, from trees that had been struck by lightning, still impress me after many years. I made eight 'spirits' over a ten year period, and I still wonder where they came from, and am always delighted by the work and its spiritual character.

What is your opinion of the value of public art in today's society?

Public art has many reasons, it allows artists to show their work, and gain recognition, it allows the public to experience things that may never be available, it can be political or topical, or comical, to name a few. Most of all it is a record of our thoughts, lives and loves, put out there for all to see, to allow the viewer to make up their minds, and to interpret their feeling from the story.

What is your opinion of the importance of art and culture in a school curriculum?

Education is the key to everything. When we become more enlightened and educated, the effect is more than teaching us how. It raises our esteem and worth, and tempers our thoughts and reactions. Art and Culture in schools should be designed to teach basic skills that will develop in unpredictable ways, as well as to encourage continuing education, and the gaining of experiences and understanding.

Which artists have influenced you over time?

Mackellar, Epstein, Picasso, so many great sculptors, but every day I find new sculptors on web pages from all over the world. There is great diversity, inventiveness and so much passion for their work. It makes me realise that influences come from just being alive.

Col Henry *Mother and Son* can be seen at the Swell Smalls Gallery from the 5th - 21st September The Way of Design Gallery, Pacific Parade, Currumbin.



SWELL FRIENDS

help keep it free...

The contributions from our Swell Friends help strengthen the foundation of the exhibition and its vision of 'getting art out there'.

If you would like to show your support we welcome enquiries about becoming a Swell Friend. Please contact:

friend@swellsculpture.com.au

Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

For more information or to download a form go to:
www.swellsculpture.com.au

Linda Peri, Maree Bradbury & Heidi Keevers - Symbiosis (A Pair of Dragonflies)

Swell Smalls Gallery

An exhibition of smaller works by exhibiting artists at the Swell Sculpture Festival

where. The Way of Design Gallery
next to the Deck Cafe
2/792 Pacific Parade
Currumbin Beach

when. 5th - 21st September

hours. 9.30am - 4.30pm



Images: Frederic Berjot *Serenity* Mimi Dennett *The Army of Roses (Siphon)*

thewayofdesign

GALLERY OF ART & DESIGN

07 5534 1530

www.thewayofdesign.com.au

SWELL
SCULPTURE FESTIVAL
-Getting art out there!

“inspired by Christo”



On the last Sunday of Swell, the Currumbin sky will come alive with movement and colour as children gather on the beach with their hand formed kites, eager to catch the sea breeze...

Together they will form a dynamic, large scale public installation to close the Swell Sculpture Festival.

Sunday 21st September 2008 at 2pm.

Facilitated by artist and educator Ruth James, this will be an artwork that is accessible to the community through engagement with honest Australian contemporary art making. It will be fun, interactive and creative.

During the exhibition children can participate in kite making workshops. They will all be invited to fly their kites simultaneously along Currumbin Beach to close the exhibition.

The workshops and collaborative installation will be a place of both learning and fun and will deliver an exciting, innovative cross cultural experience.

We welcome school groups and individual children to the workshops and to the main installation.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of Chris Robson and Wind Speed Kites.
www.windspeedkites.com.au

BOOKINGS.
07 5598 6004
education@swellsculpture.com.au

WORKSHOPS.
12th - 20th September
\$5 per child

Installation Participation - free

KITE INSTALLATION.
Sunday 21st September 2008
2pm
Currumbin Beach

www.swellsculpture.com.au



Swell Sculpture Festival 12th - 21st September 2008

GOVERNMENT PARTNER EVENT PARTNER SIGNIFICANT PARTNERS



MEDIA PARTNERS



FOUNDING PARTNER





CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN JOINING THE SWELL TEAM?

Volunteers will meet for a full brief in late August so please register your interest NOW!

VOLUNTEERING at Swell is a great opportunity to engage with people in the community and to get into the creative and energetic atmosphere!

What you get out of it!

- An official exhibition catalogue
- A Swell T-shirt & cap
- Complimentary coupons from nearby retailers
- An invitation to the *Volunteer After Party*
- All volunteers are acknowledged with a Certificate of Appreciation.

Please contact Anna Itkonen at anna@swellsculpture.com.au

We gratefully acknowledge the essential support of our Partners.

GOVERNMENT PARTNER



EVENT PARTNER



SIGNIFICANT PARTNERS



MEDIA PARTNERS



91.7 ABC
Coast FM



FOUNDING PARTNER



SUPPORTING PARTNERS

Elephant Rock Cafe
Point Restaurant
The Beach Shack
Deck Cafe
Platypus Graphics

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

The Way of Design Gallery
In the Bin Film Festival
Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary

The Swell Team

The Committee
Natasha Edwards
Jason Allen
Ruth Della
Lee Edwards
Anna Itoken
Iain Johnson
Aub Kelly
Dev Lenjil
Kate McDonald
Around 50 dedicated volunteers

Opportunities for Site Sponsorship Closing Soon.

Please go to the website for more details.

For more information on Corporate Partnership Opportunities please contact our office at 07 5598 6004 or email. info@swellsculpture.com.au

Swell Sculpture PO Box 457 Currumbin Q 4223
p. 07 5598 6004 e. info@swellsculpture.com.au
www.swellsculpture.com.au

