

Media Release
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Art Industry to gather in Inverell for Art as an Industry Forum

Art industry representatives will gather in Inverell to attend the region's fourth Art as an Industry Forum aimed at highlighting the significance of artists and the art industry to Australia's, and this region's cultural sustainability.

It is an opportunity for artists, art teachers and students, galleries, arts and crafts suppliers and others with an interest in exploring new ways of engaging with art as an industry.

"The region's art industry continues to go from strength to strength. The Forums highlight this and identify the valuable contribution the industry makes to the New England North West's broader cultural and economic strength," said Jack Ritchie, Regional Arts Development Officer at Arts North West.

"This is a chance to explore the opportunities that exist for the development of the art industry in Australia and the opportunities that exist within this region."

Keynote speaker at the Inverell Forum will be Maisy Stapleton, Chief Executive Officer at Museums and Galleries NSW.

Other speakers include metropolitan artist Brian Hirst, regionally based artists Angus Nivison, Michelle Hungerford and Jacqui Hahn, Arts Educator at the Art Gallery of NSW Tristan Sharp, and Curator at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Sydney, Christine Morrow who will speak about her recent experience curating Primavera 07, an annual MCA exhibition showcasing new work by young artists from around Australia. Regionally based journalist, Tim Hughes will MC the event that will also feature Bobbi Ballas from the Department of State and Regional Development.

"This is a great opportunity for us all to examine ways that we might participate in and develop the region's art industry," Mr Ritchie said.

What opportunities are available for regionally based artists? What is the art industry's potential for further growth and development in the New England North West?

The Inverell Forum follows the success of the first, held in Armidale in 2005 and those held in Tamworth and Moree earlier this year. Regionally based artist, Angus Nivison had proposed the original idea based on feedback he had received from visual artists in the region.

Each of the Forums has received a wonderful response from participants and has provided valuable knowledge, skills and the resources for artists to develop networks and secure exhibitions in the region, Sydney and even internationally. They have also suggested excellent strategies for the further development of the industry.

A further Forum is planned for Quirindi early in 2008.

Partners in the project are Arts North West, the Northern Inland Regional Development Board, the New England Institute of TAFE, the NSW Department of State and Regional Development, Inverell Art Society and the Inverell Shire Council. The Forum has received financial support from the NSW Department of State and Regional Development, Inverell Shire Council and the New England Institute of TAFE.

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