



Art as an Industry Forum to be held at Moree Plains Gallery

Art industry representatives will gather in Moree to attend the region's third Art as an Industry Forum.

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

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

The Moree Art as an Industry Forum, to be held on Friday 31 August, is aimed at increasing people's understanding of how artists and art dealers are an integral part of 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 keynote speaker will be Cathy Craigie, one of the original founders of Koori Radio, the Director of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board of the Australia council and the Deputy Director General of the NSW Department of Aboriginal Affairs.

Other speakers include well-established Moree artist Marg Adams, local art industry representative Amanda Humphries, New England artists Angus Nivison and Terrence Allen, Sydney artist Bronwyn Bancroft, Sydney art dealer Rex Irwin, Director of Moree Plains Gallery Katrina Rumley, and Bobbi Ballas from the Department of State and Regional Development.

The speakers will present their views as regional artists or city-based artists, curators in public art institutions or the commercial sphere, art dealers or art buyers, art critics or art historians.

How can artists make a living? What is the New England North West art industry's capacity for development?

According to Mr Ritchie, participants will have the chance to identify and share what they need in order to build the region's art industry and their role in it - it might be marketing support or additional opportunities for communication.

The Moree Forum follows the success of the first, held in Armidale in 2005 and another held in Tamworth 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.

Further Forums are planned for Inverell later this year and Quirindi early in 2008.

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

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