

Media Release
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Art as an Industry Symposium a great opportunity for the region

"The Art as an Industry Symposium is a great opportunity for established and emerging artists in the region to develop new ways of engaging with art as an industry," said Jack Ritchie, Regional Arts Development Officer at Arts North West.

"It is an equally valuable opportunity for others linked to the industry - galleries, art teachers and students, business suppliers for the arts and crafts or those buying art."

The Art as an Industry Symposium will be held in Tamworth on Friday 23 March.

The Symposium will be an opportunity to pick up on trends in cultural industry development in Australia and internationally and on the creation of public art in communities.

It brings together a great range of speakers including Cultural Economist and Chair of the NSW Arts Advisory Council, David Throsby, and Public Art Consultant, Pamille Berg.

Others on the program include regionally based artists, Terrence Allen, Michelle Hungerford and Ross Laurie, Metropolitan Commercial Gallery Director, Damian Minton and Bobbi Ballas from the Department of State and Regional Development.

The Symposium follows the success of the first, which was proposed by regionally-based artist, Angus Nivison based on feedback he had received from visual artists in the region, and held at the New England Regional Art Museum in October, 2005.

According to Don Tydd, Northern Inland Regional Development Board, the first Symposium was very well attended and highlighted the strength of the visual arts in the New England North West.

"Art is an emerging industry in the New England North West and contributes significantly to the region's strengths," said Mr Tydd.

"This Symposium will further contribute to its development and will create new linkages for artists regionally, statewide and nationally."

Partners in the project are Arts North West, Tamworth Regional Gallery, Gamilarart, the Northern Inland Regional Development Board, the New England Institute of TAFE, the Department of State and Regional Development and Tamworth Regional Council.

Further information, program details and registration forms can be obtained by contacting Arts North West on 6732 4988 or at www.artsnw.com.au

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