

Media Release
19 February, 2007



Regional artists and art industry leaders to speak at Symposium

Regionally based artists, Terrence Allen, Michelle Hungerford and Ross Laurie will join art industry leaders including Cultural Economist and Chair of the NSW Arts Advisory Council, David Throsby and Public Art Consultant, Pamille Berg to speak at the Art as a Creative Industry Symposium to be held in Tamworth on Friday 23 March.

The Symposium 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.

Other speakers include Metropolitan Commercial Gallery Director, Damian Minton, who will speak about his role, and Bobbi Ballas, Business Development Manager from the Department of State and Regional Development who will draw on her background in industry development.

According to Jack Ritchie, Regional Arts Development Officer at Arts North West, participants will have the chance to identify and share what they need in order to successfully build the region's art industry and their role in it - it might be marketing support or additional opportunities for communication.

"This is also a great opportunity to gain an insight into how regionally based artists are getting national and international exposure."

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

"The anticipation that has been building for the upcoming Symposium is evidence of the strength of the visual arts in our region," said Mr Ritchie.

"Participants will have a rare opportunity to hear from and meet with three of the region's visual artists – two of whom have exhibited internationally, as well as art industry leaders like David Throsby from Macquarie University who not only chairs the NSW Arts Advisory Committee but is recognised as Australia's leading cultural economist. Throsby is President of the Association for Cultural Economics International and has been a consultant to the World Bank, the OECD, FAO and UNESCO."

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

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

Media enquiries:

Cherene Spendelove 6775 1332 / 0429 190 369 lorien19@bigpond.com
Arts North West 02 6732 4988 artsnw@northnet.com.au www.artsnw.com.au