



## New England North West artists - making art and making a living?

The New England North West is home to many talented artists. Is it possible for them to make art and make a living?

Arts North West, in partnership with the Northern Inland Regional Development Board, will be hosting a series of workshops across the region to address this question and offer advice as to how it might be achieved.

The free workshops, 'Making Art - Making a Living', were devised in response to requests from artists and galleries. They follow the successful 'Art as an Industry' symposiums that have focussed on the development of creative industries within the New England North West region.

"The region's art industry continues to go from strength to strength," said Jack Ritchie, Regional Arts Development Officer at Arts North West.

"The Symposiums highlighted this and identified the valuable contribution the industry makes to the New England North West's broader cultural and economic strength."

According to Mr Ritchie, the symposiums and the Visual Arts Surveys conducted following each of the symposiums, have provided an opportunity to hear from those within the industry.

"They have allowed us to consider ways that we can help to sustain and nurture this emerging industry."

The 'Making Art – Making a Living' workshops, to be held in Armidale, Inverell, Moree and Tamworth, will respond to issues identified by artists and galleries through the visual art survey and direct consultation - best practice, professional opportunities and promotion.

Speakers will include Christine Willcocks and Robyn Sweaney who successfully developed and ran the Piece Gallery in Mullumbimby. Their presentation will provide an insight into the issues and opportunities involved in establishing an artist run space.

Cath Fogarty, Manager of Professional Development at Museums and Galleries NSW, and Merrilee Kessler who is currently Projects Manager at NAVA, will address issues including best practice, the gallery and artist relationship, insurance, awards, fundraisers and other opportunities for artists and galleries.

Other sessions will consider the role of websites in promotion and marketing, governance for volunteer and community galleries and professional artist opportunities – how to find them and use them.

The workshops will be held at:

- New England Regional Art Museum, Armidale on Tuesday 3 March;
- Inverell Art Gallery, Inverell on Wednesday 4 March;
- Moree Plains Regional Gallery, Moree on Thursday 5 March;
- Tamworth Regional Gallery Studio, Tamworth on Friday 6 March.

On each day, the program will commence at 9.30 am with registration and morning tea and will conclude at 4pm. Buses are available from Quirindi and/or Gunnedah to attend the Tamworth workshop, and from Glen Innes and/or Tenterfield to attend the Inverell workshop. Contact Arts North West to discuss options.

Arts North West and Northern Inland Regional Development Board welcome the support of New England Institute of TAFE, the Department of State and Regional Development, Museums and Galleries NSW, the National Association for the Visual Arts (NAVA), New England Regional Art Museum (NERAM), Inverell Art Society, Moree Plains Regional Gallery, Tamworth Regional Gallery, New England North West artists and project coordinator Isabelle Devos.

Places are limited so please book early. For bookings or for more information contact Arts North West on 02 6732 4988 or [artsnw@northnet.com.au](mailto:artsnw@northnet.com.au)