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Ephemeral Art on display in Tamworth

Two ephemeral public artworks have been created and installed in Tamworth as part of Arts North West's Ephemeral Art Project – a regional residency project focused on public art skills.

The project, aimed at developing skills for artists and commissioning bodies such as Tamworth Regional Council in contracts, development, planning and installing public art, has received support from the Council.

Many visitors saw a work on paper created by Moree-based emerging Aboriginal artist Kylie McNamara during its period of installation at Ray Walsh House during February.

Artist Rosalind Warden's ephemeral artwork, 'Our City Our World' is constructed of found metal objects. It is currently on display at the Tamworth Regional Gallery until 6 April.

According to Regional Arts Development Officer, Jack Ritchie, the project has provided both artists with valuable experience in working to a brief, while Tamworth Regional Council has been given an opportunity to work through the process of commissioning public art.

The Ephemeral Art Project invited New England North West artists to respond to a brief created by internationally respected Public Art Consultant Pamille Berg in consultation with Arts North West, gallery directors, artists and councils.

Ten artists were selected to participate in workshops conducted by Ms Berg who has an excellent record of inspiring individuals, communities and policy makers. The workshops looked at options to address a public art brief in a clear and creative way including drawings and maquettes. Three of these artists then went on to create ephemeral public artworks – large-scale works to be located in the public arena for a short time.

"This public art initiative, the process of commissioning, creating and installing public art in Tamworth, has provided a great opportunity for Tamworth Regional Council and Arts North West to work together and explore best practice elements for commissioning public art," Mr Ritchie said.

"The Ephemeral Art Project offers many short and long term benefits for the region," said Mr Ritchie.

"It offers artists an opportunity to develop their skills, understanding and community awareness while further developing a collection of work. The project also encourages the further development of public art policies and builds connections between local artists, councils and community stakeholders."

"Longer term, it is anticipated that the project will contribute to the promotion of the visual arts in this region and increase the number of distinct public art projects across the New England North West - increasing opportunities for artists and encouraging partnerships between Council, community and artists," said Mr Ritchie.

"We hope that public art will be recognised as an important element of cultural plans."

The third work to be created as part of this project, Tony Sevil's 'The Stack', will be installed alongside the Graduate's Walk at the University of New England on Monday 11 May.

The Ephemeral Art Project has received funding support from the Regional Arts Fund through Regional Arts NSW. The Regional Arts Fund is an Australian Government initiative delivered in partnership with Arts North West, the University of New England Armidale, Tamworth Regional Council and Pamille Berg Consulting Pty Ltd.

For more information contact Arts North West on 02 6732 4988 or artsnw@northnet.com.au



Australian Government

Regional Arts Fund

The Regional Arts Fund is the Australian Government's regional arts program, which gives artists and communities throughout regional, rural and remote Australia better access to opportunities to practice and experience the arts.

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