



Ephemeral Art to be unveiled at UNE

'The Stack', a public art work by local artist, Tony Sevil will be launched at the University of New England on Monday, 11 May at 1.30pm by Vice-Chancellor Professor Alan Pettigrew and Jack Ritchie, Regional Arts Development Officer at Arts North West.

The work, located on the Graduate Walk at UNE, was commissioned as part of Arts North West's Ephemeral Art Project – a regional residency project focused on public art skills.

The 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. Kylie McNamara and Rosalind Warden will install their works in Tamworth, while Tony Sevil's work will be at the University of New England.

"This public art initiative, the process of commissioning, creating and installing Tony's work at UNE, has provided a great opportunity for UNE and Arts North West to work together and explore best practice elements for commissioning public art," Mr Ritchie said.

"I hope that it might assist with the already growing other public art projects at the University."

UNE has advocated the integration of public art and sculpture as part of the ongoing development of the campus environs. In 2007 hand-carved wooden sculptures by local artists Stephen King and Reuben Lockwood were donated and placed in the courtyards of Rural Medicine and the Oorala Centre. In 2008 a bronze cast sculpture by Sydney artist Patricia Lawrence was acquired for the Dixson Library courtyard. The University has welcomed this opportunity to support both public art and regional artists.

According to Mr Ritchie, the Ephemeral Art Project offers many short and long term benefits for the region.

"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."

For Tony Sevil, the project was an opportunity to expand his experiences, gain technical knowledge in public sculpture, learn to make larger work in the public arena and work with other sculptors.

"It has been a long process but a fruitful one," he said.

"I have learned a lot about the process of public sculpture. There is so much to consider. Thanks to Arts North West and the University of New England for the opportunity."

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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