

FRIDAY 3 JULY 2009

TEA MEETS TECHNOLOGY IN TEXTILES SHOWCASE

Enjoying a cup of tea is central to Australian culture and many others around the world – now artist Liz Jeneid has celebrated the ritual in a textile sculpture to go on show at ANU next week.

Jeneid recycles used tea bag papers to make a series of sculptural objects in her work *Tea Party*, to be exhibited in the Australian Biennial of Textiles 'Momentum' show at the ANU School of Art Gallery.

Head of Textiles at ANU and exhibition curator, Valerie Kirk, said the artist has transformed naturally dyed tea bag papers into "beautiful evocative cups which invite the viewer to reflect on the many occasions that friends have shared a cup of tea and enjoyed respite from a crisis on hand, solved the problems of the day or perhaps the problems of the world."

From the early 1970s the textiles biennial has provided audiences with an exciting and vibrant survey exhibition of contemporary fibre textiles. Artists from across Australia have been selected to participate in this year's exhibition. The curator has put together an exhibition that looks at the influences new technologies have had on traditional fibre textile practice and how artists have combined their individual practice to incorporate new techniques.

"Artists are in a position to choose if and how to access high-tech materials and processes to enhance their work," Ms Kirk said. "Textile artists work inventively because of the rapidly changing context of their world, pushing the boundaries and communicating through their original expressive forms. They challenge our perceptions and move forward into unknown territories. The strength of their work comes from the artist's ability to respect tradition and history while engaging with the momentum of progress"

The show also includes works by Christine Atkins, Babbarra Designs, Jane Bowden, Alana Clifton-Cunningham, Annabelle Collett, Fiona Gavino, Robyn Glade-Wright, Hilary Green, Mandy Gunn, Cecilia Heffer, Melissa Hirsch, Jill Kinnear, Kelly Leonard, Rodney Love, Penny Malone, Elisa Markes-Young, Lucille Martin, Vicki Mason, Ainslie Murray, Debra Porch, Louise Saxton, Demelza Sherwood, Annie Trevillian, Elefteria Vlavianos

WHAT: 18th Tamworth Fibre Textile Biennial 2008 'Momentum'

WHEN: 8 July to 1 August 2009

WHERE: ANU, School of Art Gallery, Building 105, Ellery Crescent, Acton.

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