

## MEDIA RELEASE

### *Artists prove their place in Canberra arts community*

artist/proof visual arts exhibition

*... an artist's proof has special value because of its extra rarity and its possible differences from the "standard" ...*

The ACT Community Arts Office presents an extraordinary exhibition celebrating International Day of People with Disability; **artist/proof** will be on show at the Belconnen Arts Centre from Thursday 3 December until Sunday 20 December. But what you really don't want to miss is the opening launch on **Friday 4 December, from 5.30pm!**

We will be raising a glass to more than 30 artists who have made their mark in contributing to this exhibition. With individual artists, schools and the Paperworks group included in the catalogue you will experience a diverse range of artworks and be inspired by the achievements on show. Some artists have not had work in a professional gallery before, others are more experienced and all have worked together to plan and present these works; exploring concepts of identity, accessibility, connection, wellbeing and acceptance.

This vibrant group of local Canberra artists absolutely prove their place in the arts! Cranleigh School, Black Mountain School, Paperworks, Dagmara Anders, Paul Bilton, Giselle Burningham, Keith Carfrae, Judith Ann Daniells, Diana Davidson, Dr Possum, Jenni Heckendorf, Rebecca Hill, Pauline Mager, Mitchearte, Ralph Nelson, Keith Reece, Vijaya Sen, Jenny Snell, and touring artist Harrison Saragossi (QLD).

The ACT Community Arts Office's artsAbility Officer, Caro Roach says "It's been really great working with the Belconnen Arts Centre staff to create an inclusive process for the **artist/proof** artists. The artists are really looking forward to seeing their works on the walls and can't wait to show friends and family at the opening event."

Join us on Friday 4 Dec for an evening of entertainment and music overlooking the spectacular surrounds of the Belconnen Arts Centre, jump to the fun beats of Monkey Drum and drumUp, travel to far away places with Heart and Soul Singers' world music, be moved by dance artist Katie Senior and friends, and soak up the sweet sounds of musician TJ James.

Special guest speakers for the evening will be Amanda Bresnan, ACT Greens MLA spokesperson for people experiencing disability and Mary Durkin, Disability and Community Services Commissioner.

And in a natural progression from still to moving images – take a look at the short film pieces being screened in the exhibition and take your opportunity to register for next year's 2010 community film making project **Through a Different Lens** - being launched at the exhibition opening by a guest speaker from the National Film and Sound Archive. Get motivated to tell your story through a different lens.

The partnerships in this project have been amazing! This exhibition has been a fantastic example of how much can be done when a group of organisations and funding sponsors work together. Disability and Community Services Commissioner Mary Durkin says "The **artist/proof** exhibition and **Through a Different Lens** projects are important opportunities to address issues of inequality and exclusion, ensuring people in the community have access to venues and opportunities to participate in cultural activities" "The **artist/proof** exhibition and **Through a Different Lens** projects are creating important opportunities to showcase the talent and skills that artists in the disability community bring to the ACT arts."

**artist/proof exhibition launch Friday 4 December 2009, 5.30pm – 7.30pm**

**Belconnen Arts Centre, 118 Emu Bank, Belconnen**

**MEDIA ENQUIRIES Caro Roach 02 6247 1882, 0450 960 899**

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Interviews with individual artists available on request.