

Nature's Moments –Group Mixed Media Exhibition at Art Moment Gallery. Exhibition duration 19 September-21 October.

All welcome to join the artists at the exhibition opening on:
Wednesday, 19 September 6-9pm.
Official Opening at 7pm by Special Guest.

The theme is nature with the topic open to interpretation.
Painters exhibiting are: Tracey Creighton, Rebecca Jacka, Rita Palm, Guy Sardisco and as well as sculptor Dawn Whitehand.

Tracey Creighton says about her work, "This series is designed to be fresh, unstructured and spontaneous, enticing the viewer's eye to weave endlessly through the maze of colour and texture."

Tracey Creighton's professional art career spans some three decades. Initially trained as a graphic artist she later became an educator when she established Queensland's first private graphic art college.

Rita Palm talks about her work. "Like most artists I paint because of an overwhelming compulsion to do so. Life without painting would be unthinkable; it is my *raison d'être*. Nevertheless, in spite of the fact that I have been practising as an artist for over 35years."

"My inspiration comes from Nature...For me, creating an atmosphere or conveying a feeling takes precedence over meticulous planning and detail and my work is almost always an attempt to capture and record a fleetingly glimpsed impression of nature's beauty," Rita Palm.

Rita Palm started painting more than 30 years ago in Zimbabwe (then Rhodesia) and held her first solo exhibition at the John Boyne Gallery in Salisbury in the mid 70s. The exhibition became an annual event until 1980 when she moved to South Africa where she lived and exhibited her art for the next 15 years. In 1995 she came to Australia and now lives on the Mid North Coast of NSW. Rita Palm is a member of the Australian Society of Marine Artists as well as the International Society of Marine Painters and has been selected for inclusion in the 2008/2009 edition of *Who's Who in Visual Art* which is published biennially by Art Domain in Leipzig, Germany.

A number of Guy Sardisco's works in *Nature's Moments* feature the Indian Fig plant. He explains, "On my recent trip to Sicily I found this strange fruit

fascinating. The Indian Fig or as Italians call it, 'Figghi del India' is traditional fruit served after a meal. Sprouting in summer time, Sicilians eagerly await these prickled treasures. I found the color on these fruits and their green-blue palms interesting and seasonally symbolic of the Island."

Gaetano Sardisco is a Sydney born and based artist, his qualifications include a BFA at Paddington's College of Fine Arts. Most of his work centers on the inner psychological landscape and pursues themes and subject matter that explore this.

Sydney based Rebecca Jacka is a mostly self-taught artist. Previous years have been dedicated to teaching in schools in country Queensland. She studied various units in art practice and art theory at the Australian Catholic University and the Southport Art School on the Gold Coast.

In Rebecca Jacka's works the use of bright colours juxtaposed with dark themes culminates in a curious, rich space where the viewer is immersed in a dreamscape.

With a cartoon, fairy tale quality to her work she is interested in what we are preoccupied with in our everyday perceptions of ourselves and others. There is a tension between freedom and entrapment in her work. Flight or fight is a constant theme as images of abstract birds and nature are prevalent in the exhibited Birds and Baths' series.

Dawn Whitehand, "Living in a rural environment of Victoria, I am constantly aware of the curvaceous lines and movement within the natural landscape. Being the 'skin of the Earth', I believe clay to be a powerful medium, facilitating an awareness of the natural world and our interconnectedness to all living matter. I hope the qualities exhibited by my sculptures will inspire the viewer to reinvigorate their attitudes toward, nature."

Dawn Whitehand (BAVA Hons.) is currently undertaking her PhD at the University of Ballarat in regional Victoria. A recent winner of the Pat Emery Award for Emerging Artists, Dawn has artwork in the Ballarat Fine Art Gallery collection, has been published in The Journal of Australian Ceramics.

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