

ART EXHIBITION

Symphony

celebrating spiritual diversity in art and culture

The art exhibition: *Symphony* focuses on the spiritual aspect of human experience, with an emphasis on *unity in diversity*. 'Unity in diversity' is a concept of "unity without uniformity and diversity without fragmentation". It focuses on the idea that diversity enriches human interactions. "We are all the leaves of one tree...We are all the waves of one sea..." *Thich Nhat Hanh*. This community building exhibition with its workshops and performances is intended to bring together Wollongong's diverse peoples: to share aspects of our expressions of the human spirit; to learn about each other's cultures and insights; to realise common aspirations and experiences; and to promote friendships, harmony, understanding and mutual respect. *Symphony* coincides with Harmony Day which celebrates cultural diversity.

Where: Project Contemporary Artspace, 255 Keira St Wollongong

When: 13 – 26 March, 2017, with our art exhibition opening on the 17th. Harmony Day is March 21. Workshops/performance weekend is 18th and 19th March, 2017.

Organisers: Alena Kennedy: alenasart@gmail.com, Libby Bloxham: libs@libbybloxham.net

Expressions of interest

We are looking for expressions of interest to be involved in this exhibition. It has three parts: visual art exhibition, performance/workshop program and community project.

1. VISUAL ART EXHIBITION

This is an art exhibition of high quality art works: painting, drawing, sculpture, printmaking or installation art which address the theme of the exhibition. Interested artists may like to explore aspects of spirituality such as:

- Contemplation of what lies beyond our physical existence;
- Reading, seeing or hearing something that inspires you;
- Appreciating the presence or beauty of something;
- Creating work which you feel suits your 'inner' good nature;
- Experiencing love or appreciation of something that has enriched you inwardly;

- Experiencing special interactions with humans or animals;
- Having an actual spiritual or spontaneous uplifting experience;
- Expressing your close feeling of relationship with the natural world;
- A religious experience;
- A prayerful or meditative experience;
- The experience of being creative;
- Another experience that you feel suits the theme.

Interested artists are asked to write an artist statement to address the theme of the exhibition and to submit this together with several images of works similar to that which they wish to exhibit. Please include a description, size and medium of the works. Images should be no larger than 1MB each. We accept academically written artist statements but are equally happy to receive simple and well thought out personal statements which describe your work in relation to this theme. It is understood that spiritual experiences are elusive, intuitive and sometimes difficult to write about, but if your art is of a high quality and you feel attracted to this exhibition please feel free to enter. This should be emailed to Libby and Alena by September 30. A panel of four artists will select the works for the exhibition and artists will be notified by October 31, 2016 of the results.

2. PERFORMANCE/WORKSHOP PROGRAM

We are looking for several performances in music, poetry/story, dance etc for the weekend of 18th and 19th March, 2017. These celebrate diversity and should reflect the theme in some way and/or be relating to a cultural tradition (traditional and contemporary both accepted). Please submit your idea to Alena and Libby by September 17. You might like to include an invitation to your next performance if you have one. We can arrange to discuss your performance proposal.

3. COMMUNITY PROJECT

We hope to create a community project on the Small Wall Gallery in Project Contemporary Artspace. This could include arts, crafts or other creative works by a community group, or several groups together. The emphasis should be on spirituality, harmony or celebrating diversity. If you have a good idea that you would like to present please contact Libby and Alena by September 17 and we will meet with you to discuss your idea.

Dates to remember

September 30, 2016: Due date for your submission.

October 31, 2016: Notification of results, information about exhibition and time line.

Symphony exhibition date: 13 – 26 March, 2017