



art with
marina saint martin

■ The main aim of the inaugural Gold Coast Contemporary Art Crawl weekend being held today and tomorrow is to raise the profile and identity of professional art activity in this community

Diamonds in the ruff



Pugcocks . . . feathers and mixed media by Emily Bullock

The Gold Coast is often identified with speed – a fast-paced lifestyle and racing events such as the Magic Millions, the recent Indy and now the forthcoming A1 Grand Prix car races.

But the big event of this weekend will have nothing to do with speed.

It will, in fact, be a crawl.

Today, with the birth of the Gold Coast Contemporary Art Crawl, this city finally sheds its culture-free image – an incorrect but nevertheless popular perception – and embraces a new form of culture tourism.

The inaugural event will include six vibrant local art spaces – ranging from the established and well known to the newly opened and gaining in reputation – all showing quality contemporary art.

This crawl is giving local art enthusiasts – and there are more of those than most people realise – a meeting ground and an opportunity to see the work of artists from around the nation, as well as work of some of the currently most active professional artists of this area.

It will also be an opportunity to meet gallery owners, to experience and compare local art spaces, to support emerging artists and encourage new audiences to explore the local contemporary art scene.

Galleries taking part in the inaugural event are:

□ The recently established 19 Karen, 19 Karen Street, Mermaid Beach, which is hosting two exhibitions – Magnus Kennedy's *Nostalgic Nightmares* and a group show with Merry Wilson, Nicholas Chalmers, Ben Havenaar and Hannah Smith called *No Promises*.

□ The nationally respected Schubert Contemporary, at Marina Mirage, Main Beach, is presenting *Shhh . . .*, a solo exhibition by Victorian artist Erika Gofton.

□ A relatively new space, blkmrkt, at 1/17 Harvest Court, Southport, is presenting the new body of work by its co-director and local artist Shayle Flesser, titled *Immaculate Heart*, begun in Paris, while living there with her husband, fellow artist Wayne Owen, on his Brett Whiteley Traveling Scholarship.



Shayle Flesser's Shape of Things to Come 4

□ The Lorraine Pilgrim+Nyst Gallery at 16 Nerang Street, Southport, will show Trinity Leonard's solo exhibition *Undertow*.

□ George Petelin Gallery, corner Beale and Smith streets, Southport, will present *Warrior Woman*, by Jennifer Herd, as well as a Christmas art show.

□ Our public art space, the Gold Coast City Art Gallery, 135 Bundall Road, Surfers Paradise, will host one of the highlights of the weekend tonight with the announcement of the 2008 Stan & Maureen Duke GC Art Prize, judged by Lynne Seear, deputy director of the Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art.

Sadly Dr Stan Duke, who was present for the inaugural Duke event last year, died last month.

Our weekend art fest includes six

galleries focusing on 60 artists and featuring more than 150 artworks.

The total distance of the crawl will be about 11km which visitors can cover as and when they prefer over the weekend.

It is interesting to note the variety of the innovative and interesting art spaces, which house the six galleries in the crawl.

One is in a luxury shopping centre, another is housed in an old factory warehouse, the third is based in an classic old Queenslander home, the fourth a shop front. One, established this year, is part of a law office and, of course, our civic art gallery is part of our official art centre.

"The initiative represents a considerable measure of good will and co-operation between the galleries involved, so we may all benefit by pooling resources and sharing exposure," says Virginia Rigney, curator of public programs at the Gold Coast City Art Gallery.

Special events include four art openings, five artists talks and panel events, as well as meet-the-collectors cocktail parties.

Works on show vary from the traditional to the unexpected. One of the most unique works is a pair of *Pugcocks*, two colourful pug dogs (feathers and mixed media) by artist Emily Bullock, on display at the GCCAG.

The inaugural crawl will be followed up by an evaluation and if deemed as successful, organisers hope to expand the concept in future years.

The Gold Coast Contemporary Art Crawl is a Cultural Tourism initiative supported by the Regional Arts Development Fund created by the Queensland Government and Gold Coast City Council.

It is there for the viewing today and tomorrow.

So put on your comfortable walking shoes, find your local map or set your car GPS – and get out there to make the most of our art crawl, seeing as much art as you can, during this important cultural weekend!

WHAT'S ON SHOW

Gold Coast City Art Gallery

135 Bundall Road, Surfers Paradise

Duke Art Prize: Tonight, 6pm

Schubert Contemporary

Marina Mirage, Main Beach

Shhh...: Erika Gofton. Ends December 27

blkmrkt

1/17 Harvest Court, Southport

Immaculate Heart: Shayle Flesser.

Ends December 17

19 KAREN Contemporary Artspace

19 Karen Avenue, Mermaid Beach

No Promises & Nostalgic

Nightmares. Ends December 14

Lorraine Pilgrim + Nyst Gallery

16 Nerang Street, Southport

Undertow. Ends December 24

Sofitel Gold Coast Lobby

81 Surf Parade, Broadbeach

Summer Exhibition: David Ardley.

Ends February 28

Royal Queensland Art Society

25 Broadbeach Blvd, Broadbeach

The Long Hot Summer.

Ends January 30

Catswingers Exhibit.

Ends December 27

Marks and Gardner Gallery

69 Main Western Road, North Tamborine

On the Move: Pru Morrison.

Ends December 31

Bruce Macfie Gallery of Fine Art

Benowa Gardens Shopping Centre

Wobbiegobs: Audie Burns.

Ends December 31

Brenden's Gallery

3/66 Casua Drive, Varsity Lakes

Original Originals: Paul Mooney.

Ends December 20

Escape Gallery

Brisbane Street, Murwillumbah

Habitat. Ends December 31

Holistic Light Gallery

Oasis Shopping Centre, Broadbeach

Magic Colours of Nature: Sylvia

Meisner. Ends December 31

IN BRISBANE:

Queensland Art Gallery/GoMA:

Eugene Carchesio. Ends February 1

COMING SOON: The announcement

of the 2008 d'Arcy Doyle Art Award,

Mudgeeraba Foundation Gallery,

Thursday (December 11) at 6pm. Ends

December 21

■ Email listings to:

whatsonshow@gmail.com



6 Galleries, 60 Artists – This Weekend!
Visit gcartcrawl.blogspot.com

corporateartcentre

visit
Gallery

13/110
Kortum Dve,
Burleigh

5576 8888