

BRIDGET WATERS

Food & Fibre Artist

Bridget Waters is a Western Australian installation artist, transforming food materials into amazing works of art. Her previous works range from carved bread sculptures, to dresses made out of dehydrated beetroot. With a B.A. (Art) majoring in fibre / textiles, Waters has a very refreshing style and unique approach of crossing textiles with food. She has previously been involved with Art in Bloom 2006.

Her work explores and presents ways of enjoying food other than consumption alone. With elegance and humour, Waters has combined her two passions, both art and food. She describes her art as cutting edge, visually engaging and unique. (www.propelarts.org)

TANIA SPENCER

Tania Spencer is the artist who created the 100 foot wire snake named Pythonosaurus, that won her the NAB Western Australian Sculptor's Scholarship and NAB Kids' Choice award for 2008 Sculpture by the Sea. Tania lives on a farm near Lake Grace in W.A.

"My practice sits firmly at the juncture of domestic textiles and sculpture: it is 'crafted art'. The works are multi-layered, exploring technique, rural and domestic heritage and thought-provoking social themes. Through the medium of knitting, I hope to encourage the viewer to consider the weaving together of diverse cultures and religions within our society."

(www.johncurtingallery.curtin.edu.au/exhibitions)

REBECCA GRACE

Rebecca Grace has run her business Natural Art from her Nedlands home for over 15 years and as the name implies her creations are more a crafted art than flower arrangement. A keen participator of Art in Bloom, she has been involved in all 9 events.

The key to Art in Bloom, according to Bec is capturing and reflecting the art work, "It's all about the painting" - giving viewers a new and fresh perspective on it.

SHELAGH MAGADZA

Artistic Director, PIAF

As Artistic Director of the Perth International Arts Festival, Shelagh Magadza's ambition for the next four festivals is to create a global conversation on the streets of Perth. She sees the Festival experience as "not only a celebration of the arts but also a celebration of ourselves." Previously the Associate Director of the Perth International Arts Festival, Shelagh Magadza has been with the Festival since 2002. She has extensive experience in Festival management through various roles in New Zealand and Edinburgh over the past 13 years. Shelagh holds a Masters Degree in International Relations (Victoria University, Wellington) with research focused on international cultural exchange.

MARCUS CANNING

ARTRAGE Director

ARTRAGE is one of the most dynamic multi-artform support organizations for contemporary arts and culture in Western Australia. Marcus was Creative Director of AWESOME Perth International Arts Festival's state-wide regional program from 1998–2001 and has worked as a theatre / performance designer, producer and director with many local and interstate arts organizations.

Marcus has been a mentor for AFWA's Emerging Curator Programme and with Youth Arts Queensland's Australia-wide Theatre Mentorship Program – SPARK. Marcus has sat on a number of arts panels for ArtsWA, Healthways, New Media Arts Board of the Australia Council and currently sits on the Inter-arts Committee of the Australia Council. He is Chair of DCITA's Festival's Australia Panel.

(www.artrage.com.au/who)

RUSSELL BLAIKIE

MUST Winebar

Russell grew up on his parent's dairy and sheep farm in the southwest farming region near Cowaramup. His childhood years were all about seasonality and freshness. He trained as a chef in Perth and then at the legendary Dorchester Hotel in London. Returning to Perth he co-owned and operated No 44 King St in Perth in its hey day and now is partner and general manager of Highgate's award winning Must Winebar.

Russell is actively involved in WA's food and wine industry – the Great Southern Food Festival and his very popular segment on 720 Drive Show – Lazy Susan, helping listeners 'design' recipes.

STRYKER MEYER

Mark Fitzmugh

Hair / Make-up and Drag Queen Consultant Stryker Meyer, won a BAFTA (British Academy of Film and Television Arts) award for his role as make-up artist in the ground-breaking Australian Film *The Adventures of Priscilla Queen of the Desert*, story based on Miss Cindy Pastel, a drag queen and close friend of Stryker's.

Not trained in make-up, Stryker learnt his craft by watching and copying others before developing his own unique style. A known Sydney drag queen and the drag queen consultant for the actors, Stryker now resides in Perth.

MICAH

Micah Earnshaw

Micah began DJing in 1995, organising his own small events at various venues around Perth city. Twelve years on he is ranked 24th in Australia and has been voted Perth's Best Breakbeat DJ in the Perth Dance Music Awards for the past four years.

From 1997 to 2000 Micah was involved in organising *The Pines*, a free outdoor event held in the Gnangara Pines. The event, attended by around 2000 dance music enthusiasts, created such a hype that authorities shut it down.

Since then Micah has played at some of the biggest events for dance music in Australia including *Breakfest*, *Parklife* and *Good Vibrations*.

Events and international acts aside, Micah said what he loves most about being a DJ is "sharing your love of music and communicating with people on a level unlike any other". He is a people's DJ who thrives on audience participation and being able to connect with the crowd. After a solid 12 years of DJing and contributing to the music scene in Perth, Micah is now deemed a local legend.

"Micah presents Full Frequency alongside Ben Mac on RTRFM 92.1 on Mondays from 3-5pm. He can be seen doing what he does best at Beat Suite with DJ Sharif Galal at the Velvet Lounge, Mt Lawley, on Friday nights and on Saturday nights at Ambar, Murray Street." (3rd Degree, Vol 03 2007)

SHIME

The owner of Monty's shop in Victoria Park that sells spray paint, Shime (aka Michael Barker) has made the transition from a kid with a spray can to a well known Perth artist. Shime's work is known to those who have driven past the underpass on Wellington Street – the school kids pulling faces, many shop fronts and murals. Shime (together with Stormie Mills) was invited to Greece in 2004 as Australia's artistic representative for the Athens Olympics, painting large graffiti murals across the country.

Shime has contributed more than most would be aware of. Widely acknowledged globally for his amazing painting skills, Shime played an integral role in the establishment of TFC (Twenty First Century) in 1987; a group that supports and creates new concepts and graffiti art. Members include not only artists but also illustrators, graphic designers, tattoo artists, youth officers, business operators, parents and musical performers. Shime also established 'Bitz and Pieces' a black and white magazine that published photographs of graffiti art – local, national and international work. (www.oneleginc.com/Spotlights)

STORMIE MILLS

Since launching his career as a proscribed visual artist in 1984, Mills has carved a distinctive niche for his work that has seen him showcased internationally to critical acclaim. His work has crossed many boundaries with representation in exhibitions in London, Birmingham, Berlin, Los Angeles, Melbourne and Perth.

His solo exhibitions held in Perth in 1999 and 2003 were hugely successful with both shows selling out on opening night and resulting in numerous private commissions. In 2002 he achieved a Commendation Award in the highly competitive *City of Perth Invitational Art Award* and in May 2005 was invited to London as a guest speaker at the London Institute of Contemporary Arts to launch the Thames & Hudson publication *Graffiti World*. In 2006 he presented works in Tokyo and Taipei before he returned to Perth for his third solo show in May 2007, followed by another in Melbourne in July of the same year. He has been commissioned to create works in both Los Angeles and London and in 2002 was invited to create large-scale murals across Greece in preparation for the Olympics.

Mills's work is a deeply personal narrative about emotions captured in the layers of his works, depictions from intense observations of the texture of life to engage and challenge the viewer to explore beyond the surface to find real beauty amidst the decay. (www.artistswa.com)

DR CHRIS THORNE

Chris Thorne's background is in IT and R&D projects, with specialisation in geospatial and 3D visualisation. He has a PhD in Computer Science. His research has placed him at the forefront of improving the fidelity of motion, interaction and rendering in computer simulation.

Chris has a strong interest in online virtual worlds, and is the Australian Ambassador of the Association of Virtual Worlds. He also led the UWA team to win 2007 Google Australia-New Zealand virtual campus competition and put a 3D UWA campus on Google Earth.

With all this incredible IT experience and knowledge, Chris Thorne has been invited to participate in Art in Bloom 2008. Chris will be working collaboratively with Stormie Mills on digital interactive installation. Stormie will offer creative content, and together with Chris's skills, the product will be a digital, interactive art installation.