

12 September – 24 October 2015 :: A Lismore Regional Gallery Exhibition

Primary School Education Kit



:: EDUCATORS INFORMATION ::

Art Magic: Remnant is a Lismore Regional Gallery exhibition and community engagement project with Hiromi Tango. Tango is an acclaimed sculptural installation and performance artist who uses textiles to wrap and weave together tactile and immersive environments by hand. For *Art Magic: Remnant*, she and Community Engagement Facilitator, Claudie Frock, have worked with local community members to make a 'Rainbow Forest', responding to the flora, fauna and landscape of the Lismore region.

Tango has used the concept of the regeneration of the rainforest as a metaphor for emotional healing. She has a strong belief in the therapeutic qualities of her process and has developed "Art Magic recipes" to share the delight of making. Tango has worked extensively with a variety of community groups including local artists, the elderly, anxiety sufferers, children and young people, students, people living with a disability and culturally diverse community members.

Workshop participants and community group members played a crucial role in creating *Art Magic: Remnant*. A big thank you to everyone for their enthusiasm and dedication in the realisation of this project. Community groups that were involved include; R.E.D Inc, Lismore TAFE, Jarjum Preschool, Lismore Yarn Guerillas, The Crafty Mummas, Jiggi Makers Circle, The Village Artists, Tuntable Falls Community Preschool & Primary School, Friends Child Care Centre, Lismore Deaf Artists Group & Lismore Rainforest Botanical Gardens.



ABOUT HIROMI TANGO

Hiromi Tango is an internationally respected artist based in Tweed Heads. She has undertaken major community engagement works including *Pistil*, a sculptural site-specific installation that was created for Contemporary Australia: Women, Queensland Art Gallery / Gallery of Modern Art (2012). In 2013 she was commissioned as the Jackson Bella Room Artist at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney. Other recent projects and exhibitions include *Monster Hotel*, (Out of the Box Festival, QPAC, Brisbane 2014), *Hiromi Hotel: Moon Jellies*, (Hazelhurst Regional Gallery and Arts Centre, Sydney 2013); *Traces – Blue* (with Craig Walsh at Art Setouchi, Japan, 2013); *Home – Gwangju* (with Craig Walsh, Gwangju Biennale, Korea, 2012); *Hiromi Hotel – Mixed Blood*, 'Primavera', (Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, 2011) and *Behind the Door*, (PICA, Perth 2010).

Over the last two years, Hiromi also undertook a series of community engagement through *FIVE (DADAA, 2013 - 2014)* – a community engagement project developed to foster awareness of mental health issues through the arts in Western Australia.

ART MAGIC: REMNANT ON YOUTUBE

films by Cloudcatcher Media

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z4y9WWeR_60

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NPUMVfnx_00

This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body



LISMORE
REGIONAL
GALLERY

image: Hiromi Tango, *Art Magic: Remnant* 2015, photograph Dean Beletich. Hiromi Tango is represented by Sullivan + Strumpf



THE ART MAGIC : REMNANT PROJECT :: MAKING THE RAINBOW FOREST

Contemporary installation and performance artist Hiromi Tango, was born in Japan and now lives and works in Australia. She exhibits her artwork both nationally and internationally.

Hiromi worked on the *Art Magic: Remnant* project with The Lismore Regional Gallery and Northern Rivers region community members for over 3 months during 2015.

Hiromi uses techniques she calls 'Art Magic' to create her immersive soft form sculptural installations, that engage all the senses. She makes them with help from people from the community using fabric, yarn, donated objects, materials and stories.

Hiromi and the local community created 'Art Seeds' that became part of the large installation in the Lismore Regional Gallery.
(Read about the 'Art Seeds' on Page 6)

Another important part of Hiromi Tango's artwork is her strong belief in how art can heal. Her Art Magic techniques of wrapping, weaving and use of bright colours, essential oils and sound are designed to positively affect the brain and help people feel more relaxed.

Hiromi thinks that bringing people together to create and play has benefits in reducing anxiety, improving brain function and creating connections between people.

Hiromi is both an installation and performance artist and for the Lismore Regional Gallery project Hiromi created a character called Momo. Momo is a Rainbow Forest creature inspired by the theme of the remnant or leftover rainforest of Lismore.

Momo visited Lismore throughout the project to make artwork and interact with the community. She also performed on the opening of the exhibition along with R.E.D Inc. dance group and other community members.



WHAT IS INSTALLATION ART?

Installation art is a term used to describe mixed-media sculptural constructions or assemblages often designed for a particular place and specific period of time. Sometimes Installations are also called 'Environments'.

Some other installation artists you might want to find out more about: Yayoi Kusama, Claes Oldenburg, Olafur Eliason, James Turrell, Nikki Savvas and James Turrell, Nikki Savvas and Pip and Pop.

WHAT IS PERFORMANCE ART?

Performance art is a performance within a fine art context. The performance may be either scripted or unscripted; spontaneous or carefully planned; with or without audience participation.

The performance can be live or in the form of a film, video or on the internet. The performer can be present or absent. Performance art can happen anywhere, in any venue or setting and for any length of time.

Some other performance artists you might want to find out more about: Yoko Ono, Tino La Bamba and Kellie O'Dempsey.

USEFUL LINKS

Art Magic Remnant Video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NPUMVfnx_00

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z4y9WWeR_60

Hiromi Tango's Website

<http://hiromitango.com/>

Sullivan and Strumpf Gallery

<http://www.sullivanstrumpf.com/artists/hiromi-tango-2/>

Installation Art

<http://www.tate.org.uk/learn/online-resources/glossary/i/installation-art#introduction>

Performance Art

<http://www.tate.org.uk/learn/online-resources/glossary/p/performance-art>

:: CREATING CONNECTIONS :: ART MAGIC AND COMMUNITY ::

The *Art Magic: Remnant* exhibition was woven together by Hiromi Tango and the community, made of yarn and fabric and other objects. It was inspired by Lismore's remnant (leftover) rainforest, native plants and animal species that grow, or have grown in the region. With vines, fruits and colourful plants sprouting out of the walls of Lismore Regional Gallery the installation looks like a fantastic 'Rainbow Forest'.

Hiromi Tango's artworks often involves the community and around 13 core local groups and lots of people joined in to work with Hiromi Tango and Lismore Regional Gallery Learning Officer Claudie Frock to created *Art Magic: Remnant* project, in the Art Magic Pop-up shop in Lismore CBD or in their schools or studios.

Community groups included R.E.D Inc, Lismore TAFE, Jarjum Preschool, Lismore Yarn Guerillas, The Crafty Mummas, Jiggi Makers Circle, The Village Artists, Tuntable Falls Community Preschool & Primary School, Alstonville Primary School, Friends Child Care Centre, Lismore Deaf Artists Group & Lismore Rainforest Botanical Gardens and many other people from the Lismore region.



Hiroimi Tango Art Magic™ Remnant



The **Art Seeds** acted as inspirations and steps for the community groups and individuals who worked with Hiroimi Tango to create the **Art Magic: Remnant** exhibition. The Art Seeds also represent the objects made by the community participants that are woven together to create the much larger installation.

RAINBOW FOREST : ART SEEDS

1



Art Seed 1. The Heart Shaped Leaf

Based on the Macaranga and Bleeding Heart plants that are native plants of the Lismore region. They nurture and protect other plants in the rainforest.

2



Art seed 2. The Round Things

The round things are the fruits, seeds and eggs of the rainforest the wonderful round shapes that bring new life into the rainforest.

3



Art Seed 3. The Long Things

The long things are the plants of the rainforest, the hanging vines, branches, roots, beautiful tendrils that make the colourful, strong, connected 'Rainbow Forest'.



4



Art Seed 4. The Animals

Goannas, koalas, snakes, birds, frogs, snails and colourful butterflies, spiders and other insects that live in the Northern Rivers region. Also some fantastical creatures too, like fairies and phoenixes are in the 'Rainbow Forest'.

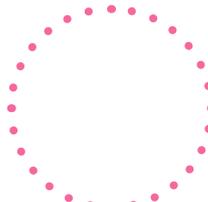
5



Art Seed 5. The Nests

This art seed is all about nests where different birds and animals live in the Rainbow Forest. And the Wompoo Fruit Dove was a special inspiration because of its beautiful rainbow colours. See if you can find a Wompoo nest with baby birds in the artwork.

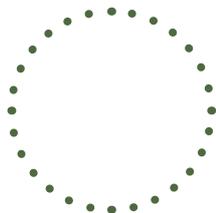
6



Art Seed 6. The Art Magic Character

Hiroimi Tango's character MOMO is a rainbow forest creature. Some other people also created characters and costumes to wear to the opening of the **Remnant** exhibition. They were inspired by colour, nature and the rainbow.

7



Seed 7. The Personal Art Seed

People had the chance to make their very own art seed inspired by their life, home and favourite things about Lismore.



QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND TALKING POINTS



Q.1.

Who created the Art Magic: Remnant installation?

Q.12.

How does the installation make you feel? Which of your senses were most affected?

Q.3.

Artist Hiromi Tango uses the term 'Art Seeds' to describe the elements and objects that she weaves together to create her artworks. Look at the Art Seeds info sheet on page 6 and see if you can identify some of the individual Art Seed elements in the installation.

Q.4.

what kinds of things did you see in the Rainbow Forest?

Q.5.

**Does the exhibition remind you of anything else you have seen before?
If so what does it remind you of?**

Q.6

What is a good word to describe the Rainbow Forest?



::: MAKE A HEART SHAPED LEAF TAG :::

The heart shaped leaf is a special symbol in the Rainbow Forest. It is based on the leaves of the pioneer or motherhood plants: the Bleeding Heart and Macranga trees. These trees grow in our Northern Rivers region's forest. They help to repair and protect a remnant or damaged ecosystem so it can regrow into a strong healthy forest.

♥ Start a Rainbow Forest in your own classroom or at home.

1. Write a magic word or draw a magic picture on the heart below.

2. Cut out the blue and red heart shape, poke a pipe cleaner through the hole and attach it somewhere in your Rainbow Forest.

