

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

High School Education Kit



image: Hiromi Tango, *Art Magic: Remnant* 2015, photograph Natsky.



:: 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 that engage all the senses. 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, Tunttable Falls Community Preschool & Primary School, Friends Child Care Centre, Alstonville Public School, 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_O0

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



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 over 3 months during 2015.

In her art practice Hiromi uses techniques she calls 'Art Magic' to create immersive installations from soft form sculptures made with fabric, yarn donated objects, materials and stories. These environments engage all of the senses with Hiromi also using, sound and essential oils and inviting audiences to touch the work.

Hiromi along with 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 aspect of Hiromi Tango's art practice is her strong belief in the healing qualities of art. Her Art Magic techniques of wrapping, weaving and use of bright colours are designed to positively engage the brain's neural pathways and are proven to assist people with anxiety to feel more relaxed. Hiromi believes that bringing people together in a safe and structured environment to create and play has benefits in alleviating anxiety, improving brain function and creating community connections.

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 Eliasson, James Turrell, Nikki Savvas and James Turrell, Nikki Savvas and Pip and Pop.

WHAT IS PERFORMANCE ART?

Performance art is a performance presented to an audience 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 via media such as film, video or via 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: Marina Abramovic, Yoko Ono, Zhang Huan, Jill Orr, Julie Rrap, Tino La Bamba, Mike Parr, 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 ::

Hiromi Tango's art practice often involves community collaboration and around 13 core local community groups and individuals generously donated their time to work with Hiromi Tango and Lismore Regional Gallery community engagement facilitator Claudie Frock on the *Art Magic: Remnant* project. They visited the Art Magic Pop-up shop in Lismore CBD or worked in their schools or art studios.

Participants 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 Public School, Friends Child Care Centre, Lismore Deaf Artists Group & Lismore Rainforest Botanical Gardens and many individuals from the region.

Art Magic: Remnant brings together pieces made by community members who have worked closely with Tango, using her "Art Magic" techniques to make a site-specific work.

Inspired by the small pockets of remnant rainforest of the Lismore region, the *Art Magic: Remnant* exhibition contains elements inspired by native plant species that grow (or have grown) in the region. The installation is a forest of woven yarn and fabric, populated by local animals, insects, and imaginary hybrid creatures. With vines, fruits and colourful plants sprouting out of the walls of Lismore Regional Gallery like a fantastical ecosystem.

More than an artwork, for those who worked on project *Art Magic: Remnant* created connections and brought together a group of new and old friends to grow a wonderful artwork with yarn, fabrics and shared stories.



Hiromi Tango Art Magic™ Remnant

The **Art Seeds** acted as inspirations and steps for the community groups and individuals who worked with Hiromi 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



2



3



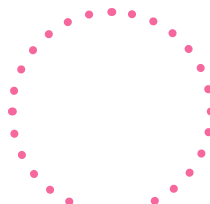
4



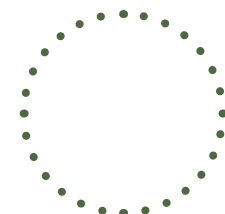
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6



7



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.

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.

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'.

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'.

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.

Art Seed 6. The Art Magic Character

Hiromi 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.

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 AND ANSWERS



Q.1.

Who created the **Art Magic: Remnant** installation?

Q.12.

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

Q.3.

Artist Hiromi Tango uses the term 'Art Seeds' to describe the elements and objects that she weaves together to create the *Art Magic: Remnant* installation. 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.

Can you see some of the ways Hiromi Tango and community participants have created the works in the installation? Describe what you see.

Q.5.

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



:: EXHIBITION REVIEW ::



Write a short review of the **Art Magic: Remnant :: Rainbow Forest** installation

Before you write your review discuss the Exhibition with your class using the Cultural and Postmodern Frames.

REVIEW WRITING TIPS

- Research and write about the artist or artists who created *Art Magic: Remnant* installation and where it is exhibited.
 - Describe the way the installation looks: the colours, textures, materials used and scale of work.
 - Describe how the artwork makes you feel.
 - Interpret and comment on the theme and meaning of the artwork.
 - Ask other people what they thought about the exhibition and discuss ideas.
 - Formulate and state your point of view or feelings about the artwork
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