



Update on 2010 Exhibition

With less than 3 months now to the 2010 bentART exhibition, it's time to putting the dates into your calendar. The exhibition opening night is on Friday the 11th June and runs until the following Monday, 14th June. Remember that this year we have a change of venue, with the exhibition being held at the **Wentworth Falls School of Arts**, which is an exciting venue with a number of spaces that will enable the curators to show the works off to their best. Grateful thanks go out to BMCC for their assistance in making available some of the hanging material from the Katoomba Civic Centre.

For all the artists out there, there is good news concerning entries this year. Due to the kind generosity of sponsors (more of which later) the prize money is more than doubled from 2009 – now being over \$5,000 in total. Plus, we have several new categories to encourage wider participation amongst the GLBT community; a **New Entrant Award** for those who have not submitted art in previous exhibitions, a **Youth Award** for young GLBT artists under 25 and an **Aboriginal Award** for GLBT indigenous artists. Please encourage artists that you know that qualify for any of these awards to submit so we have a vibrant and diverse exhibition.

We also have news around the judging of the prizes. The judging of the bentART award and the four category prizes will be done by John Kirkman, who previously ran the Penrith Regional Gallery and prior to that he was Curator / Manager at the Australian Museum. John is currently CEO of Penrith Performing & Visual Arts Centre. Joining John in the judging will be Geoff White from Katoomba Fine Arts gallery on Lurline St. Geoff will be judge the New Entrant and the Youth award. We are currently organising for the Aboriginal Bent Artist Award to be judged by an Aboriginal artist. Curation of the exhibition will be undertaken by Sophie Seeger and Jane Canfield. Sophie, an artist herself, has considerable experience in gallery management and curation, while Jane is an artist who works across a range of media and has strong exhibition experience. We are fortunate to have such a skilled combination in judging and curation. Sincere thanks for all for donating their time and expertise.

Finally, the opening night is set to be a very social affair again this year with wines once more being supplied by Rolling Wines of Orange and catering by Richard Moon and the Blue M café of Katoomba. With good wine, fine food, friends new and old and wonderful art all around, it's bound to be a night to remember it – so don't miss it!

Sponsorship Update

Many thanks to our major sponsors this year being Wall2 Wall Real Estate and the Alex Hotel who will sponsor the bentART prize and Peoples Choice prizes respectively.

We have a number of returning sponsors this year as well as a number of new sponsors. This year we have three levels of sponsorship. Platinum sponsors have donated more than \$1000 in cash, Silver sponsors have donated cash or in kind between \$250 and \$1000 and "Friends of bentART" have donated cash or in kind between \$50- \$249. We also have two hospitality sponsors.

The platinum sponsorship opportunities aligned with major prizes are all full now, however we still have opportunities for anyone wanting to support the exhibition with either the Silver sponsors or as a Friend of bentART. As we have decided this year to pour all Platinum and Silver sponsorship money back into the artist prizes, we rely on Friends of bentART to help with the running cost of putting on the exhibition. So any donations are most gratefully received.

In terms of current sponsors at the Platinum and Silver level , we warmly welcome back the following sponsors from previous exhibitions:



Wall2Wall (Platinum Sponsor)

Barb Wall and her partner, Catherine Cooper-Norwood, set up Wall to Wall in 2007 as an independent realestate service for the Upper Mountains. Focussing on client service and innovation in terms of marketing and technology, Wall to Wall has become synonymous with quality. Both Catherine and Barb have been long-time supporters of the arts and LGBT artists, and returning as a Platinum sponsor again this year, have shown a strong commitment to bentART.

Find more details at www.walltowall.net.au or call on (02) 4787 8781



Wentworth Falls Animal Hospital (Silver Sponsor)

Wentworth Falls Animal Hospital's tagline is "Passionate About Pets" and by combining the latest practice and technologies with friendly, personal and caring service, they care for your pets as much as you do. The Hospital's owners (Steve and Fiona Gibson and Andrew and Nicky Laws) recognise the value of their GLBT clients and are proud one again to be associated with bentART as Silver sponsors.

Find more details at www.wentworthfallsvet.com.au or call on

(02) 4757 3255



Rolling Wines (Hospitality Sponsor)

bentART once again welcomes the Rolling Wines (from Cumulus Wines of the Orange region) as its hospitality sponsor for 2010. Rolling Wines will provide the wines for bentART's Opening Night.

A choice of wines from the Rolling range will be available on opening night with ROLLING Pink again be the highlight of the wines showcased. With this wine, the ROLLING team have hand-crafted a wine in keeping with their bright, fruit-driven style and created one of the freshest and newest rosés in the market.

Rolling Wines takes its name from the rolling hills of the Cumulus winery and surrounding terrain. In just a few short years, Rolling Wines have claimed over 50 awards in Australian and international competitions.

Find more details at
www.cumuluswines.com.au/our_wines/rolling



KATOOMBA FINE ART

Katoomba Fine Art (Silver Sponsor)

The Blue Mountains is home to some of Australia's finest landscape painters, sculptors, glassmakers, craftspeople and contemporary artists - many of whom, including artists who have exhibited in bentART are represented at Katoomba Fine Art. The gallery is situated on Lurline St - the main route down to other Blue Mountains attractions such as Echo Point and the spectacular Three Sisters.

Find more details at www.katoombafineart.com.au or call on (02) 4782 1220



Mr Particular (Silver Sponsor)

Mister Particular is a locally owned and operated professional cleaning service, specialising in providing individually tailored cleaning solutions to holiday rental properties, private residence and commercial properties in the upper Blue Mountains. Mister Particular has supported bentART for some years now and long timesupporter of the arts.

Find more details at www.misterparticular.com.au or call (02) 4782 9899



Global Values Exchange (GVX) (Silver Sponsor)

GVX is an independent, Aboriginal owned and operated training company, based in the Blue Mountains, NSW. Anny Druett travels across Australia and provides customised training in Certificate IV in Governance, Cultural Capability, Workplace Communications and other areas on request.

Anny's life and business partner Ruth le Cheminant (also a gifted abstract artist) keeps the GVX office ticking over as Office Manager and delivers first class administrative support to GVX clients and suppliers. Ruth maintains the company books for tax, BAS and keeping the "business in the black".

For more information contacted Anny or Ruth on (02) 4757 2440 and keep an eye out for our their new website coming soon.

We also want to welcome to the exhibition for the first time the following sponsors:



The Alex Hotel (Platinum Sponsor)

The Alex Hotel is a most unusual combination of casual and old Leura dining. Amidst pool tables and rock & roll, the bar serves up whopping burgers and fries. In the original and more formal dining room looking out across Jamison Valley, a spicy Thai Beef Salad and other international dishes are featured on the menu. This is a great spot for friends to meet for a meal and drink and enjoy the outdoor patio overlooking Leura. Reasonable cost accommodation is also available.

The Alex Hotel in Leura has a history of support to the gay community. It has hosted regular GLBT Friday evening drinks and dinners for some years now.

Vist The Alex at 62 Great Western Highway (just metres beyond The Mall) or call on (02) 4782 4422



Yindi Day Spa (Silver Sponsor)

Yindi Day Spa has been operating within the beautiful Carrington Hotel for the past 8 years and offers massage (some therapists can offer health fund rebates), organic facials, body treatment, a luxurious sunken spa couples room, packages and Spa Parties.

In keeping with the Spa's view that locals are the most important customer, Yindi offers discount days for locals on Tuesdays (men) and Thursdays (woman) with a 20% discount off any treatment of one hour or more – good value for luxury. It is also the largest day spa in the Blue Mountains and won NSW Spa of the Year

2007. Open 7 days.

Find more details at www.yindi.com.au or call (02) 4782 0970

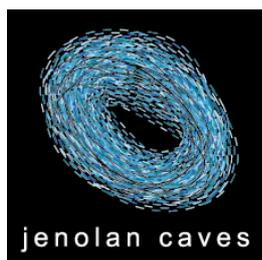


Klipt Kanine (Silver Sponsor)

Linc from Klipt Kanines is excited to have the opportunity to support bentART in 2010 as a Silver Sponsor. Klipt Kanines is your one-stop grooming shop, they can take care of your Kanines needs whether you're after a basic wash and dry, all the way to the perfect poodle klip.

As a member of the GLBT community Linc knows how important your fur kids are and look forward to lavishing the same amount of love and attention on your Kanines as his own poodles get at home.

For more details or to make a booking, call Linc on 041 630 5425



Jenolan Caves (Silver Sponsor)

Regarded as Australia's most outstanding cave system – with 11 spectacular show caves, pure underground rivers and amazing formations – Jenolan Caves is among the finest and oldest cave systems in the world. Also on offer, is a range of accommodation for all styles and budgets. Plus have breakfast, lunch or dinner by dining in the magnificent Chisolm's Restaurant. You really feel special, sitting down amid Edwardian grandeur for fine dining!

Find more details at www.jenolancaves.org.au or call 1300 76 33 11



Blue M café (Hospitality Sponsor)

The Blue M Café on Lurline St, Katoomba has a relaxed, friendly atmosphere with both indoor and outdoor dining. It is situated in Katoomba, 600 metres before The Three Sisters at Echo Point. If you are visiting the area be sure to drop in and enjoy their Breakfast and Lunch menu.

Gracing the walls of the cafe are a range of artworks from renowned local artists that are available for sale.

Find more details at www.bluemfood.com.au or call (02) 4782 6828



Common Cents Financial Services Ltd (Silver Sponsor)

Common Cents is a proud new supporter of bentART and looks forward to participating in our first year as a sponsor. Common Cents strive to provide sensible solutions for all your financial needs. Whether it is finance for a home or property investment, managed funds investment, life insurance, or superannuation, they seek to provide advice and products which just make good sense.

For a free no-obligation review of your financial situation, call (02) 4782 1822 or email common.cents@bigpond.com

Finally, we give our thanks to the following **“Friends of bentART”**

Janet Mays (Councillor BMCC), Getaway Houses, Jakeman’s Framing, Gill Green, Catherine Cooper-Norwood, Barb Wall, Mike and Ben Mitchell-Allam, Megalong Books

The generosity of the sponsors and friends enables us to support bentARTists in both facilitating the exhibition and in the prize money we can offer. These businesses and individuals are proudly showing their support for the gay and lesbian community; please keep them in your thoughts when considering the services they provide.

We would naturally still welcome more sponsors. So if you would like to be listed as a sponsor or friend of bentART, please make contact with us.

Logo Competition

Thanks to everyone who sent in ideas and designs for the bentART logo. The winning design, as shown at the top of the newsletter, was submitted by Richard Moon. Well done Richard and many thanks. The committee would also like to give special commendation to Michael Burge and Katherine Dyatloff for the designs they entered which were shortlisted.

bentART Forum

The Forum was conducted on Feb 14. It was attended by a small group of 12. There was a lively and enthusiastic discussion of a number of issues.

- all agreed bentART was a good thing for the GLBT community generally and for artists & we wished it to continue on
- it is one of only a few opportunities for both newer and professional GLBT artists to exhibit their work

- it is good to keep aims broad, but group felt Exhibition itself should continue be held in Blue Mountains for some time, although entries from all over Australia could be accepted
- people pay membership to support bentART and fees could be increased a little but should remain attractive & accessible
- offers of sponsorship and donations in kind should be accepted from all from large to small, although major sponsorship of the exhibition should rest with only a few businesses
- Curators' decisions will continue to be final with regard to works accepted for display. Entries may sometimes need to be culled because of space considerations. Entries considered to be potentially in infringement pornography or copyright law will not be displayed
- the logo needs re-working so it does not have to updated every year and so it emphasises bentART itself rather than giving prominence to the exhibition year number
- artists prize monies could be increased subject to sponsorship funds raised

Membership Renewal

Finally, a note about membership renewal. The renewal period is now set to begin just before each new exhibition. As such membership is open for renewal from the middle of May. The membership period will run from 1st June 2010 to 31st May 2011. We have also extended the membership options available to either a single year (\$10) or a three year period (\$25).