



UNIVERSITY
OF WOLLONGONG
AUSTRALIA

University of Wollongong
Research Online

Faculty of Creative Arts - Papers (Archive)

Faculty of Law, Humanities and the Arts

2006

Classical to contemporary: thoughts for the future

Diana Wood Conroy

University of Wollongong, dconroy@uow.edu.au

Publication Details

Wood Conroy, D. "Classical to contemporary: thoughts for the future." *Cultural Strands*. 1 ed. Ed.M. Webster. Perth, Western Australia: FORM: Contemporary Craft and Design, 2006, 84-87.

Research Online is the open access institutional repository for the University of Wollongong. For further information contact the UOW Library:
research-pubs@uow.edu.au

culturalstrands wovenvisions

form.
contemporary craft and design



A program of events to celebrate the exhibition opening of *Woven Forms : Contemporary Basket Making in Australia* at FORM Gallery.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Friday 3 February 2006

- 9:00 am – 5:00 pm **Exhibition Open Day** at FORM Gallery
- 10:30 am – 3:45 pm **Cultural Strands/Woven Visions – Forum**,
FORM Contemporary Craft and Design, Kings Street Arts Centre,
357 Murray Street, Perth
- 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm **Meet-the-Artists**, Pre-opening Event at FORM Gallery
- 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm **Exhibition Opening** at FORM Gallery

Saturday 4 February 2006

- 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm **Rhythm Weaves – Outdoor Workshop** at Kings Park and
Botanic Gardens

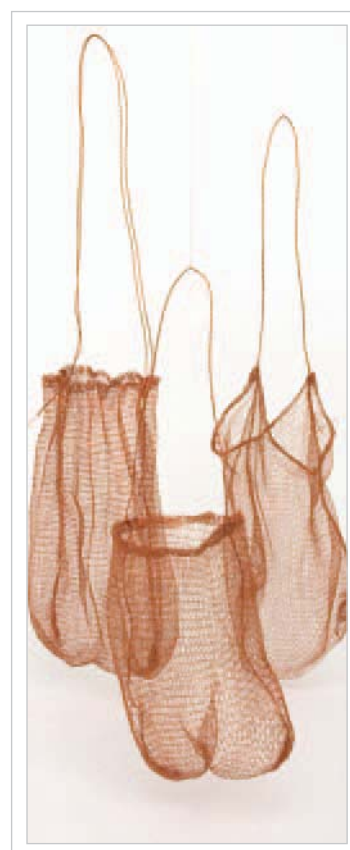
Cultural Strands/Woven Visions – Forum

Cultural Strands/Woven Visions will explore current paradigms of the Indigenous and non-Indigenous fibre art sectors, and discuss past, present and future direction. There will be a particular focus on innovation, sustainability and excellence within Australian basket making.

In each session, speakers will be invited to delve into specific issues via formal presentations.

The Forum's aims are to:

- investigate the shared dialogue and universalities of basket making across time and cultures;
- examine pathways for personal and professional development for basket makers;
- foster inspiration and collaborations among makers;
- discuss the interplay, parallels and differences between diverse practitioners;
- explore the realm and growing identity of the Australian woven fibre sector and investigate the parameters of our presence internationally;
- understand sustainability from a local to global perspective; and
- visualise the future for Australian fibre artists and basket makers.



Cultural Strands/Woven Visions – Forum Program

10:30 am – 11:15 am **Session 1: Introduction to Basket Making**

Welcome by FORM Chairman: Mr Ian Bauert

Welcome to Noongar Country: Mrs Doolan-Leisha Eatts and Mr Walter Eatts, Mr Samuel Pilot (didgeridoo)

Keynote Address, Dr. Dawn Casey (CEO, Western Australian Museum): Threaded histories; fibre works from the collection.

Prof. Tony Cunningham (Charles Darwin University/Desert Knowledge CRC): Basket making, livelihoods and sustainability: local to global parallels.

11:15 am – 11:30 am Morning Tea

11:30 am – 12:30 pm **Session 2: Strands Across Time and Space**

Nalda Searles: *Indigenous and non-Indigenous weavers' professional development across Western Australia.*

Dr. Louise Hamby: *Kunmadj from western Arnhem Land.*
Jill Nganjmirra present for question time.

Lola Greeno with Vicki West: *Developing contemporary Indigenous fibre practice in Tasmania.*

12:30 pm – 1:15 pm Lunch

1:15 pm – 2:15 pm **Session 3: New Materials, Skills and Technologies**

Emma Davies: *Future technologies and diversity of materials.*

Thisbe Purich: *Innovation and skills transfer in remote Indigenous communities.* Kantjupayi Benson present for question time.

Wendy Golden: *Impacts of diverse materials usage.*

2:15 pm – 2:30 pm Afternoon Tea

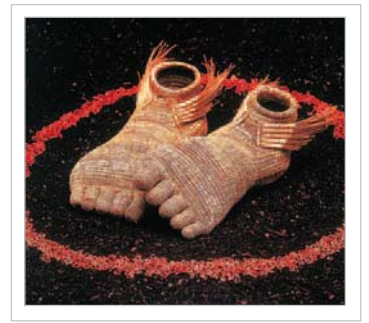
2:30 pm – 3:10 pm **Session 4: The Future Potential of Basket Making**

Virginia Kaiser: *National and international contexts for Australian basket making.*

Dr. Diana Wood Conroy: *Classical to contemporary forms: a future synthesis.*

3:10 pm – 3:30 pm **Panel Discussion – Forum Overview.** Topics: *environmental and cultural sustainability, productivity, markets and education.*

3:30 pm – 3:40 pm Conclusion and Thanks



Meet-the-Artists at FORM Gallery : Pre-opening Event

This is an informal event for guests to meet some of the exhibiting artists before the official opening of the exhibition. Drinks will be provided.

Rhythm Weaves : Kings Park Workshop

Set in the gardens of Kings Park and Botanic Gardens, this event will bring together artists, educators and 60 participants for a an extensive, interactive workshop. This is an opportunity for national fibre artists to share their stories and skills with a local audience. We aim to inspire an exploration of new techniques and materials, and individual and collective woven form collaborations.

Participants will be arranged into several clusters, each with two to three leaders who have extensive workshop experience. Fibre artists from diverse locations, cultural backgrounds , skills and technologies will be mixed together to encourage exchange.

Rhythm Weaves Workshop Program

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| 3:00 pm – 3:05 pm | Welcome to Noongar Country |
| 3:05 pm – 3:30 pm | Introduction to the Workshop |
| 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm | Sharing Materials and Forms – Leaders of each group guide participants in their weaving techniques. Stories, cultural descriptions and techniques exchanged. Use own materials and transfer techniques and experimentation. |
| 4:30 pm – 4:50 pm | Afternoon Tea Break |
| 4:50 pm – 6:15 pm | Exchange: Movement and collaborations encouraged. |
| 6:15 pm – 6:45 pm | Showcase – participants display their workshop creations. Makers are free to wander, explore and discuss outcomes. |
| 6:45 pm – 7:00 pm | Conclusion and Thanks |



Images:

Jill Brose, *The Embrace*, 2005, Alexandra palm inflorescence, Photo: Andy Stevens

Vicky West, *Cultural Vessels*, 2005 Bull kelp, tea tree, red hot poker leaves Photo: Andy Stevens

Kathy Deprez, *Pleated Dilly, Large Dilly and Small Dilly*, 2005 knited fine copper wire Photo: Andy Stevens

Sieglinde Karl-Spence *Becoming*, 2001, Allocasuarina needles, New Zealand flax, acacia melanoxylon seeds Photo: Philip Kuruvita

Emma Davies, *Orange Flowers*, polypropylene, 2005, Photo: Andy Stevens

Philomena Yeatman, *Basket*, dyed and undyed pandanas and ceramic, 2005 Photographer: Andy Stevens

Virginia Kaiser, *Nobody's Perfect*, jacaranda and date palm fruit stalks on huon pine base' 2005 Photographer: Andy Stevens

Dorothy Dullman, *Badjkid (Basket)*, dyed pandanas 2005, Photo: Andy Stevens;

Tickets and Bookings (Prices include GST)

- Cultural Strands/Woven Visions: \$50 (Students \$30)** **Rhythm Weavers: \$25 (Students \$20)**
 Both events: \$60 (Students \$40)

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Dr First Name _____ Surname _____

Address _____

State _____ Postcode _____

Telephone: _____ W: _____ Email: _____

Students/Tertiary Institution: _____ Student Number: _____

Payment Details:

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE: \$ _____ Cheque enclosed

or please debit my [tick box] Bankcard Mastercard Visa Card

Card Number _____ Expiry Date _____

Signature _____

**Send this form and payment to: FORM Contemporary Craft and Design
357 Murray St Perth WA 6000. Fax: (08) 9226 2250 Email: mail@form.net.au**

For bookings and more information contact:

Carly Davenport Acker at FORM T: 08 9226 2799 E: carly@form.net.au W: www.form.net.au

Public Program Participants

Kantjupayi Benson (Blackstone, WA)

Exhibiting artist.

Mrs Benson is a Ngaanyatjarra elder with an extensive weaving career. She recently won 1st place in the Telstra Art Awards (2005) for the collective Tjanpi Toyota.

Lydia and Josephine Burak (Pularumpi, NT)

Exhibiting artists.

This Tiwi mother-and-daughter team is experienced in public presentations and have many works in national and international collections. Both are active artists in all mediums of Munupi Arts and Crafts, Melville Island.

Dr. Dawn Casey (Perth, WA)

CEO, Western Australian Museum and former Director, National Museum of Australia.

Prof. Tony Cunningham (Perth, WA)

Professor and Director, Ethnoecology Services Research Fellow, School for Environmental Research – Charles Darwin University, NT.

Emma Davies (Melbourne, VIC)

Exhibiting artist.

Davies has a contemporary, urban perspective in her craft, using polypropylene in a progressive, futuristic approach. She is a leader and innovator in her field.

Wendy Golden (Melbourne, VIC)

Exhibiting artist.

Golden is a basket maker who explores plant fibres as well as plastic cables and monofilament in her work. She regularly writes for the *Textile Fibre Forum Magazine*. Golden was the Artistic Director for the exhibition *Weaving Lands – The Making of the Galgi-ngarrak Yirranboi Tree* (2004).

Lola Greeno (Launceston, TAS)

Co-curator and contributing author.

Program Officer of Aboriginal Arts, Arts Tasmania. Greeno's leadership has helped develop many Indigenous artist's careers.

Dr. Louise Hamby (Canberra, ACT)

Co-curator and contributing author.

ARC Fellow for the Centre of Cross Cultural Research Australian National University. Hamby is editor and curator for the acclaimed exhibition and publication *Twined Together* (2005).

Virginia Kaiser (Mittagong, NSW)

Exhibiting artist and co-curator.

Kaiser is a leading basket making practitioner. She has exhibited in both national and international institutions, including the National Gallery of Australia and SOFA Chicago (2001, 2005). She is a workshop facilitator and lecturer at the University of Wollongong.

Janine McAullay Bott (Perth, WA)

Artist.

McAullay Bott is a Noongar artist. She has an extensive career in fibre weaving whilst living in Hawaii and Canada. In Australia, her work has been featured in the Berndt Museum (WA), and the Oceanic Art Fair (2004).

Jill Nganjmirra (Oenpelli, NT)

Exhibiting artist.

Nganjmirra is a Kunwinjku cultural custodian and artist. She is a facilitator of contemporary and traditional fibre art at Injalak Arts and Crafts, western Arnhem Land.

Andrew Nicholls (Perth, WA)

Co-curator and contributing author.

Former Artistic Program Manager of FORM including the exhibition *Seven Sisters – Fibre Works Arising from the West* (2003–4). He is also a freelance writer, curator and artist.

Thisbe Purich (Darwin, NT)

Artist and educator.

Purich is a weaver and workshop facilitator. She is a key instigator for the Tjanpi Desert Weavers movement across the Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara lands,

Nalda Searles (Perth, WA)

Exhibiting artist and educator.

Searles has worked extensively to generate the skills development of fibre artists across central, western, north-western and south-western Australia. She was co-curator and exhibitor in *Seven Sisters Fibre Works Arising from the West* (2004) exhibition.

Joyce Tasma (Perth, WA)

Artist.

Tasma is a basket maker and workshop facilitator. Inspired by the Exmouth Gulf and Western Australia's unique landscape, Tasma utilises recycled and found objects in the environment.

Vicki West (Launceston, TAS)

Exhibiting artist.

West has facilitated interactive workshops at the National Museum. She utilises traditional techniques, yet her forms possess a highly contemporary sculptural edge.

Dr. Diana Wood Conroy (Wollongong, NSW)

Contributing author.

Acting Head, School of Art and Design and Associate Professor in Visual Arts, Faculty of Creative Arts, University of Wollongong, NSW.