



MEDIA RELEASE

Matchmaker's delight

Industry & Investment NSW has teamed up with Regional Arts to take a networking event with a twist on the road.

Regional artists will have a precious four minutes to strut their stuff to 12 commercial and regional gallery directors at the *Visual Arts Speed Dating-4-Artists* events in Orange and Merimbula in February next year.

Visual Arts Speed Dating-4-Artists is a fun, networking event designed to help regionally based artists make connections with galleries and arts professionals from inside and outside the region.

A number of new relationships are already blossoming between artists and art galleries who have participated in past 'match-making' events, which were originally an initiative of the Visual Arts Network (VAN) Project of Arts Northern Rivers.

"Artists have secured themselves gallery representation and other exhibition and sales opportunities at past events," says Coordinator Melitta Firth. "We were really pleased with these successes, and also to have been invited to take the event format to other regional communities."

Industry & Investment NSW has engaged Arts Northern Rivers to work with the Regional Arts Boards to deliver the events in Orange and Merimbula, with a view to possibly expanding the events throughout NSW.

"Opportunities to network with industry colleagues from regional centres and capital cities are particularly valuable for regional artists. 'Speed Dating' provides an effective format for the artists to get great exposure to key people in the industry at a single event."

Each of the 24 artists drawn from the respective regions will have the opportunity to date six of the 12 gallery directors for four minutes, followed by some slightly more relaxed networking. Crucial to the success of the event is the willingness of local and interstate gallery directors to contribute their time, travel to the event and throw themselves into the ring. For many, it will be their first taste of the talent and activity of these regional communities.

Gallery Director Charles Hewitt who has participated in past events returns to these events which he has described as "an innovative idea, and a great introduction to the diverse talents of a

regional community.”

Confirmed Participating Galleries include:

Orange Monday 14 February, 2011	Merimbula Monday 28 February, 2011
Metropolitan commercial galleries Rex Irwin Gallery Barry Keldoulis Gallery Wentworth Galleries Damien Minton Gallery Wilson Street Gallery Charles Hewitt Gallery	Metropolitan commercial galleries Anita Traverso Gallery Rex Irwin Gallery King Street Gallery Beaver Galleries Barry Keldoulis Gallery
Local & Regional galleries Jayes Gallery Bathurst Regional Gallery Orange Regional Gallery Dubbo Regional Gallery Cudgegong Gallery Cowra Regional Gallery	Local & Regional galleries Bega Valley Regional Gallery Ivy Hill Gallery Narek Galleries Crossing Gallery

Interested visual artists from the Orana, Central West or South Eastern regions of NSW should contact their local regional arts board for further information.

Artists seeking Further Information should contact their local Regional Arts Board.

Orana

Orana Arts
T 0 2 6817 8704
T 02 6817 8705
E rappo@oranaarts.com

Central West

Arts Outwest
T 02 6338 4657
E artsoutwest@csu.edu.au

South East

South East Arts Region
Tel 02 6499 2286
Email agray@sear.org.au

For local media enquiries contact the respective Regional Arts Board listed above.

For national media enquiries contact info@artsnorthernrivers.com.au or Melitta Firth on 0412 954 656.

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Visual Arts Speed Dating-4-Artists Information

Call for Expressions of Interest Due by 4 January, 2011

Information for applicants

Background

Visual Arts Speed Dating-4-Artists is a networking event designed to help regional artists make new connections with key players in the arts industry. It is also a chance for artists to receive feedback and informed advice about their work. The purpose of the event is not solely about finding metropolitan commercial gallery representation, although this is often a great outcome, rather it is about a range of possible outcomes including: exhibition and sales opportunities with local and metropolitan galleries; referrals; critical feedback; networking with other artists; and other professional development outcomes, such as perfecting your pitch!

Before applying to participate it is important to note that whilst most artists find this event to be enjoyable lighthearted fun, it doesn't suit everyone. Your meetings with the gallery directors will be very short, and you may receive some critical comments about your work. Some artists can find this stressful. This is not a problem for most artists however please keep this in mind when applying. On the day, you will formally date six of the twelve gallery directors. After this there will be an opportunity to continue networking in a less formal context.

Applications

Expressions of interest should include:

- a selection of images of recently produced work (emailed as 6 small, digital jpeg images maximum size 200kb),
- a brief biography either in paragraph form (maximum 250 words) or a list format biography; and,
- a one-paragraph artist statement, all emailed. All images must be identified with Title, Date, Medium (material used), and Dimensions.
- Please also provide your ABN if you have one.

Be sure to include your **full name, email address, and best contact phone numbers.**

Please email your applications, with "EOI for Visual Arts Speed Dating" in the subject header to:

rappo@oranaarts.com (For artists based in the Orana Region)

artsoutwest@csu.edu.au (For artists based in the Central West Region)

agray@sear.org.au (For artists based in the South East Region)

To find out what region you are in visit the Regional Arts NSW website <http://www.regionalartsnsw.com.au/network/network.html>

Expressions of Interest must be received by 4 January, 2011

Selection Criteria

Artists do not need to specifically address the selection criteria in their applications however those who best meet the following criteria will have the best chance of selection. Artists selected to participate will be artists who:

- are emerging or established;
- live and work in the Orana, Central West or South East region of NSW as defined by Regional Arts NSW, Arts Board Boundaries;
- have demonstrated experience and industry recognition or have completed tertiary visual arts training;
- have high quality/professional images of their artwork; and

- have exhibited their work in a solo exhibition at a leading commercial gallery, or in a curated exhibition in a recognized regional gallery or other public gallery (this does not include rented gallery space or competitions)

Artists will also be assessed for suitability in relation to the following criteria.

It is expected that artwork will:

- be relevant to contemporary art practice;
- display a high level of artistic achievement; and
- be appropriate for commercial sale or public exhibition.

A curatorial selection committee will use the above information to select 24 artists to participate.

Selected artists must be available to participate in:

- a preparatory workshop the day before the event and the actual event as listed below.

Orange	Merimbula
<u>Warm Up Session</u> , 2-4 pm, Sunday 13 February, 2010 Duntryleague House and Golf Course, Woodward Street	<u>Warm Up Session</u> , 2-4 pm, Sunday 27 February, 2010 venue tba
<u>Visual Arts Speed Dating Event</u> 10.00 am – 1.00 pm, 14 February, 2010 venue : Duntryleague House and Golf Course, Woodward Street	<u>Visual Arts Speed Dating Event</u> 9 am – 12 noon, 28 February, 2010 venue : Merimbula Wharf & Restaurant, Lake Street

Please note if you are selected to participate there is a fee payable of \$25 to cover some of the costs associated with your participation in this event.