

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Nanna's art made new

What is the role of a woman? Has the role changed over generations, and if so, have some things remained the same?

One North West artist is exploring these issues using vintage crafts and fabrics in her new solo exhibition at the UTAS Cradle Coast Campus.

Wynyard based artist Michelle Walker uses a range of textiles and techniques in her exhibition *New Nanna*, which will be opened this Thursday the 16th of February at the Atrium Gallery of the Cradle Coast Campus.

Celebrating the 2012 International Women's Day, the *New Nanna* exhibition investigates past traditions, styles and techniques but reappropriates them with modern day influences and nostalgic reflections of the past.

Ms Walker's exhibition explores her love of vintage themes and patterns, and her intrigue about the women who created the beautiful objects she incorporates in work.

"I just love the old styles; and finding old fabrics and re-using them is an important process in my work," Ms Walker explains.

"For example, *The Love Quilt* was made using an old quilt I found in an op shop. It was falling apart and I had to unpick numerous patches to replace them, but it was so difficult because whoever made it years ago hand sewed the work with tiny stitches and delicate care," she said.

"It was obvious this blanket had a past life and was made with love. Now I have taken the story of that quilt and incorporated it into something new that is also special."

In exploring the role of woman Walker uses motifs of the domestic space, such as doilies, tea-towels, teacups and bedspreads.

Michelle Walker is a UTAS graduate with a Masters of Contemporary Art.

Living in Wynyard, she is an active member of the arts community and one of the founders and current committee member of Wynyard's Artists Run Initiative *ArtsCape*, *Stitch and Bitch*, and Wynyard arts market *Made with Love*.

To find out more about Michelle visit her blog, at:
<http://www.rockmyroll.com/>

Title: *New Nanna*, painting and textiles

Dates: Opens 5pm Thursday, 16th February at the Atrium Gallery, UTAS Cradle Coast Campus. Runs until the 4th of April, 2012

Exhibiting artist: Michelle Walker of Wynyard

Opening speaker: Prue Lake

For more information, please contact Josie Hurst, Exhibitions Coordinator
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