

Textures of Place- Central Coast Newspaper, NSW, Australia

Place of Art during Summer in the City

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Media Release:

A local ideas exchange, a birthday party and a video art piece will be just some of the interactive artworks that visitors can participate in or witness in the making at the *Summer in the City: Textures of Place* exhibition. Four local artists will take up residence in Gosford Town Centre shops from January 15-27, considering issues of place and exploring the connections between Gosford City and its people as part of Council's *Summer in the City* program.

Sponsored by Gosford City Council, Gosford Business Improvement District (GBID) and the Central Coast Artist & Business Directory (CCabd), the artworks aim to create a stronger community identity through local participation.

Community members will play an integral role, with artists interacting with the public during the creation of the artworks, according to CCabd Co-Artistic Director, Kiera O'Toole. "This project allows the community to reflect on their own thoughts on what 'place' means to them in relation to Gosford, encouraging the love of locality, as well as developing a healthy questioning on their 'sense of Gosford'," said Ms. O'Toole. "The community will also have the opportunity to meet the artists on January 17 from 11am-1pm," said Ms O'Toole. Locals and visitors alike are asked to bring their ideas along as part of Somersby resident, Neil Berecrys-Brown's, interactive artwork, *The Local Idea Exchange & Birthday Party*. Participants can 'exchange ideas, have them repaired, restored or redesigned'.

A video art piece titled *Mr. Fix-It* by Pearl Beach artist, Peter Baka, which travels from town to town striving for cultural transformation, will be one of the artworks created. Visitors will also have the opportunity to 'knit one, purl one, knit one, purl one' with Bateau Bay artist, Josephine Laina's *Painting in Wool* artwork. Sharyn Walker of Bensville will also have her 'Pothole Covers' and other major artworks on display. The Artists in Residence will be sure to create energy and reflect local culture in Gosford City, said Council's Cultural Development Coordinator, Elio Gatti. "I am certain that the Artists in Residence component of the *Summer in the City* program will prove to be rewarding for both the participating artists and the wider community," said Mr. Gatti. The Imperial Shopping Centre is also hosting other visual artists who are a part of the *Summer in the City* program. The LightnUP team will be working on a giant feature lantern and more, while Mandy Francis and Catherine Stanley will create an installation to feature on the main stage in the Arts Evening spectacle.

The free Textures of Place exhibition is on from January 15-27 at Level 1, Gosford Town Centre. For further information, contact Council on 4325 8222 or visit www.gosford.nsw.gov.au or visit www.ccabd.com.au