



MEDIA RELEASE
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Festival Art Auction showcases region's talent

The third Eel Festival Art Auction on Friday 25 March will showcase nearly 30 high-quality, affordable artworks by 22 talented regional artists.

Exhibiting artists include Warrnambool's Rachel Peters who will be selling her artwork 'Billabong Story' inspired by the 2019 Healing Walk around Lake Bolac.

"Funds from the auction benefit both the artists and the future of the festival," Festival chair, Rachel Taylor, said.

The auction in the Lake Bolac Memorial Hall includes a dinner by indigenous caterers, the Murnong Mammias from Castlemaine.

Largely inspired by country, the artworks underscore the theme of this year's festival 'Caring for Country, Caring for Culture'.

The biennial festival, delayed until this year due to the pandemic, promotes respectful understanding of Aboriginal culture and environmental sustainability.

The art auction event is ticketed separately to the Saturday festival program with tickets costing \$33 and available at eelfestival.org.au

Auction night program

5pm – Preview of artworks and bidder registrations in the Supper Room.

6pm – Main Hall opens for Auction ticket holders **only**. Preview of artworks, bidder registrations, nibbles and drinks at the bar.

7pm – Auction begins

8pm – Murnong Mammias dinner

9.30pm (approx.) – Auction ends

Elder's artworks up for auction [pull-out story]

Dr Aunty Eileen Harrison is a respected Kurnai Elder (Gippsland region), who grew up at Bung Yarnda (Lake Tyers Mission).

Her paintings reflect her deep connection to country, her ancestors, her family and the Dreamtime.

Dr Aunty Eileen has created many works for communities, schools, government associations and private collections. She will exhibit at the Gippsland Sale Gallery in June this year.

"I was inspired by watching my parents as a small child doing art: my father made artefacts and my mother painted small images on them such as kangaroos, emus, possums and motifs, patterns and lines," Dr Aunty Eileen said.

Captions

Artist Dr Aunty Eileen with her paintings for auction, 'Gathering of Women and Children' and 'Blue Wren's Dreaming'

Quote: "Djeetgun (Southern Brown Emu Wren - Women) and Yeerung (Blue Wren – Men): these birds are links between our family and country (Krowathunkooloong Clan)," Dr Aunty Eileen said.

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