

## Brenda Runnegar

### Bio

Website: [www.brendarunnegar.com.au](http://www.brendarunnegar.com.au)

### Artist Statement

These paintings are from a series of works titled Plants from the Arid Zone which focuses on plants from the southern arid regions of Australia. – predominantly western New South Wales and Victoria. They were included in an exhibition Hills of Sand which was shown at Stefano's Gallery 25, Mildura in January 2010.

I believe that many people are unaware of the diversity and beauty of the plants from this area of Australia and my wish is to highlight their quirkiness and sometimes, their desirability as appropriate plants for the garden in our changing climate.

I found the Dancing Tree on the Walls of China at Lake Mungo National Park and was entranced with the beauty of its form and survival in a very harsh environment.

Porcupine bushes or *Triodia irritans* is from the Spinifex family and is found in the Lake Mungo National Park and throughout outback Australia.

The Mighty Mallee represents several species of the mallee tree which grows from multiple stems and has a large fibrous root system. It grows in red-brown earth on sand plains and dunes. It was extensively cleared in western Victoria for grazing and wheat growing but is fortunately well preserved in national parks and conservation reserves in the region such as Lake Mungo National Park.

Paddy Melons are a non-edible species of the Cucurbitaceae family which have been naturalised in inland Australia. They are found on bare sandy or loamy soils and sandy river beds. Although they have been proclaimed a noxious weed in some States they are usually ignored. My aim with the work is to highlight the quirky nature and endearing qualities of the plant. They can be found at Perry Sands near Wentworth.

### Education

2007 - Master of Fine Arts, Monash University

1997 - Bachelor of Visual Arts in Fine Art (Hon), Qld College of Art

1984 - Diploma of Arts in Visual Art, Canberra Institute of the Arts

### Solo Exhibitions

2008

Displacement, ANCA Gallery, Canberra  
Memories of Gardens, Meeniyar Art Gallery, Victoria

2007

Landscapes of Desire and Melancholy, Monash University, Victoria

2006

Landscapes of Desire and Melancholy, ANCA Gallery, Canberra

1997

Tous saints Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane

1994

One Western Woman aGOG, Canberra ACT

1999

'Fishnets', Dick Bett Gallery, Hobart

1989

Left for Dead, Galerie Constantinople, Queanbeyan

1985

Bitumen River Gallery, Canberra

Avago Gallery, Sydney

### Group Exhibitions (selected)

2009

Some real gems I've come across, Mogo Raw Art & Blues Gallery, Mogo, NSW

2008

Waterhouse Natural History Art Prize, South Australian Museum

Chair Art, Gallery 12, Pialligo Plant Farm, Canberra

Window on Sardinia, Civic Library, Canberra

2005

Sardinia Through Australian Eyes, Italian Institute of Culture, Melbourne

2004

Chiuso per ferie, Monash Centre, PratoItaly

2000

CWA Art Award, Tennant CreekNT

1998

Griffith University Alumni Exhibition, Qld College of Art Gallery

1997

Post grad students' exhibition, Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane

A Humid State, Qld College of Art Gallery and Touring

Postcards from the Edge, SoapBOx Gallery, Brisbane

Diverse Visions, Qld College of Art Gallery

1996

Solitary Confinement, Boggo Road Gaol, Brisbane

Diverse Alliances, Centre Culturel de Ku We Kara, Noumea

Examinations, Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane

RAWing, Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane

1995

Beyond the Picket Fence Australian Women's Art in the National Library's Collection, National Library of Australia

Collision, Loading Bay, Museum of Contemporary Art, Brisbane

1990

The Arsonists, GalerieConstantinople, Queanbeyan

1986

Visual Artists Tenants Show, ArtCouncil of ACT

1984

The Sexuality Show, Canberra School of Art Gallery  
Graduate Show, Canberra School of Art Gallery

1982

Rites of Passage, Photospace Gallery, Canberra School of Art

1990

Earthly Delights aGOG, Canberra ACT  
Sun, Smoke & Steel Studio One traveling exhibition

## Arts Administration

2008-09 - Full time artist

2001-Feb'08 - Project Officer, Exhibitions Branch, National Library of Australia

2000 - Manager, Anyinginyi Arts & Cultural Centre, Tennant Creek NT

1998-99 - Member Services Officer, Museums Australia (Qld)

1987-94 - Administrator, Canberra Contemporary Art Space

1993 - Acting Director, Canberra Contemporary Art Space

## Residencies, Grants and Prizes

2008 - Waterhouse Natural History Art Prize, Highly Commended

2004 - Sardinian Cultural Association Grant to travel to Sardinia, Italy

2004 - Residency at Monash University Centre, Prato, Italy

2000 - CWA Art Award, Tennant Creek NT

1999 - Grant - Arts Qld to attend Remote Area Museum Conference in Tennant Ck

1997 - Residency at Qld College of Art, Griffith University, Manila Studio, Philippines

## Publications

2008 - Window of Sardinia, Exhibition catalogue, Sardinian Cultural and Social Association, Canberra.

2000 - Bush Fruits, Anyinginyi Arts Touring Exhibition catalogue

1999 - Photography and its uses in a Museum Context, ARTeFACT Magazine Dec'99

1996 - Solitary Confinement Exhibition catalogue – self-published

1986 - Works of Art in Canberra Vol 2

1984 - Craft Australia Yearbook

1982 - Craft Australia – autumn

## Reviews and Articles

2008

Artnotes, Art Monthly, #215 November 2008 p55

Sasha Grishin, Where once was beauty, Canberra Times, 31 October

Diana Streak, Wonders from the deep, Canberra Times 25 October

Ron Cerabona, Natural artist winds by an "unusual nose", Canberra Times, 26 Sept

2006

Sonia Barron, 'Idiosyncratic treatment of different landscapes' The Canberra Times, 21 January

Jennifer Kingma, 'Fantasy in mixed visions', The Canberra Times, 4 January

2004

Jennifer Kingma, 'Local artist off for diverse study in Italy', The Canberra Times, 20 March

2003

Monash Research Graduate School, Annual Report

2000

Alison Alder, 'Like mother like daughter: Brenda and Emma get animated about their art,' Barkly News Pictorial, No.14, December, pp.14-15

1997

Marilyn Carney, 'Toussaints' catalogue essay, November

1989

Lisa Waller, 'Multi-media personality', The Canberra Times, 6 April

1986

Sonia Barron, 'Housewarming exhibition by 22 tenants', The Canberra Times