



Art from the Margins: opening of photographic exhibition and launch of documentary film

Bleeding Heart Gallery, Brisbane School of Arts, Ann Street
Friday 10 May 2013, 6.30pm

The Hon Paul de Jersey AC Chief Justice

Thank you Antony, ladies and gentlemen.

I begin by adding my own congratulations and thanks to the members of Transformers Choir for their inspiring music. And we are treated yet further.

The photographic exhibition is titled, as we see from the associated booklet, “Portraits of hope, recovery, courage and renewal”. Hope, recovery, courage and renewal – these are sentiments, states of mind, goals, ideals which touch on all of us. They continue to bear pivotally on the lives of the artists who feature in Glenn Hunt’s excellent photographs.

We are so fortunate to have had Glenn’s participation in this project, generously supported by the Ian Potter Foundation, which as we know is one of Australia’s major philanthropic foundations, as Glenn Hunt is a widely, nationally acclaimed photographer.

We are even more fundamentally grateful of course to the artists, the artists who have been prepared to share their private experiences, artistically presented in their works and then in their own words in the booklet.

These are uplifting accounts of the positive impact of art on the lives of otherwise disadvantaged artists.

Our 14 featured artists offer reassuring testimony to the postulation that art can help overcome adversity, and we are all grateful to them for their courage, and to their families



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and friends for facilitating the project, as we seminally are to Wesley Mission for establishing and maintaining Art from the Margins.

I could not better the eloquence of the booklet which offers this perceptive synthesis of the exhibition, and by extension the film:

“These stories are a reminder that for most of us our day-to-day lives are like clearly written pages; well organized, with narratives relatively easy to follow. For those facing disadvantage and social isolation, the same pages can be impenetrable – already occupied by stories written for someone else. But at the margins of the same pages are blank spaces, seemingly overlooked by others; each artist has discovered and used these spaces to create their own story of hope, recovery, courage and renewal.”

We are about to be treated to the film which complements the art and the photography. The film has been produced by greatz media – working with AFTM and the artists since mid-2012. The production company dates from 2002, and has since been a most worthy and enthusiastic supporter of charities and community groups, including World Vision, YoungCare and Multicap – and now our very own Art from the Margins.

It is an enormous pleasure for me now, ladies and gentlemen, to open the exhibition and launch the film.