



The best of Escape ARTfest at the Shoalhaven Arts Centre

18 March to 13 April 2011. Launch: Saturday, 19 March, 12–2pm

Each year, the Southern Shoalhaven buzzes with the excitement of the annual Escape ARTfest. During March and April, Shoalhaven City Arts Centre's Main Gallery will present a cross-section of works from the 2010 festival.

Described as '10 days of artistic bliss in the MUD', Escape ARTfest celebrates a diversity of art forms as well as the artistic culture that thrives in the Milton Ulladulla district.

Featured at the Arts Centre will be works from the 30 individual exhibitions as well as prize-winning works from the Shoalhaven Open Art Prize, the popular 8x8 Canvas Prize and the Escape ARTfest Youth Art Prize. The 2010 winning literary works will also be on display together with images from the festival itself.

The variety of art work on display will include everything from the quirky to the exquisite – large-scale abstract oil paintings, engaging photographs and finely detailed drawings. The exhibition will also feature several outdoor sculptures from the inaugural Sculpture at Cupitt's Winery including metal and timber pieces and a whimsical full-sized boat.

Many of the works, particularly those entered into the arts prizes, relate directly back to the 2010 festival theme 'reflect'. The various responses to this theme lead the viewer on a creative journey and inspire a range of ideas and emotions. While some artists take the theme quite literally, others delve deeper into its extended meanings.

Also included in this exhibition are a range of youth artworks. Young people play an important part in Escape ARTfest and various projects are undertaken each year to engage them creatively.

Members of the public are welcome to attend the launch on Saturday, 19 March and have the opportunity to meet some of the artists.

Image credits, from left: sculpture by Frances Forgan; young drummer at the harbour; sculpture by Davida Wiley

- On view:** 18 March to 13 April 2011. Launch: 19 March, 12–2pm.
Shoalhaven City Arts Centre, Berry Street, Nowra. 2541
- Hours:** Tuesday to Friday 10am–4pm. Saturday 11am–3pm. Closed Sunday and Monday.
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- Images:** Additional high resolution images are available on request. Email hollyhill@shoalhaven.net.au

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