

30th September 2010

Parallel Dreams- two artists- two worlds

Since 2006 an international collaboration has quietly been taking place between two female regional artists from very different worlds.

Wu GuoWei from Liaoning Province, northern China, and Anna Glynn from the Illawarra/Shoalhaven in Australia met in Shanghai for the first time in November 2006. Neither spoke a common language apart from their art. On seeing each other's paintings they were deeply moved by the uncanny similarity.

The dreams and stories reflecting two very different places seemed to have a synchronicity across place and time – almost a shared experience!

The artists were born within a year of each other in the late 1950s but into two very different cultures. Glynn grew up on a farm in Victoria riding horses, driving tractors, listening to Skyhooks and dreaming of China. Her home was on the banks of the Yarra River on an old gold mining site where Chinese miners had lived and she was intrigued with their story.

Wu GuoWei grew up marching for Chairman Mao in communist China during the Cultural Revolution and was one of the teenagers who travelled by train to work in the fields with the farmers.

The two artists have been exploring how they came to a similar creative place yet grew up a world apart. Working together, both in China and Australia, with little common language the processes in their art making has been challenging but also refreshing – back to basic communication where drawing is a means of communication.

In 2008, the Australia China Council gave Glynn the opportunity to spend time working in Liaoning Province China with Wu. Later that same year both artists were also awarded a Nillumbik Council artist in residence in Victoria near Glynn's childhood home. This gave them time together in key creative places that greatly influenced their arts practice and content – the places of their childhood.

A few weeks ago Glynn travelled to China again to meet with Wu and they spent time together creating more of their collaborative drawings for the exhibition.

Through their artistic connection a strong personal relationship has developed. They have worked together in creating artworks that capture the poetry of being a child: the images, language, sounds, games, stories and the emotions associated.

The two artists & their two worlds merge and this strange synchronicity is shown in their paintings using traditional Chinese paper and inks, collaborative drawings & evocative digital video artwork.

The 'Parallel Dreams' exhibition is on at the Shoalhaven City Art Centre 12 Berry St, Nowra from 15 Oct – 24 Nov 2010.

The exhibition launch is 16 Oct, 12–2pm and Anna Glynn will be giving an artists' floor talk on 13 Nov at 12pm. RSVP by calling (02) 4422 0648

For further information on this exhibition you can contact Council's Art Centre Manager on (02) 4429 7410.