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10/5/2013

**8 Artists on Exhibition
An innovative contemporary art project**

Over the past 10 months Eastern Riverina Arts, Wagga Wagga Art Gallery and Kurrajong Waratah have partnered on an innovative art project called *8 Artists*. *8 Artists* is a collaboration between emerging and established artists with and without disability living in the Eastern Riverina region. The artists are based in Wagga Wagga, Temora, Junee and Boree Creek. The exhibition of their work opens on Friday 17 May, 6pm at the Wagga Wagga Art Gallery.

The exhibition features traditional visual art, quirky ephemeral art, as well as an immersive installation room.

Wayne Emerson and Jeff McCann have created three large mixed media works on cardboard featuring animals and gardens. Angela Coombs Matthews and Kellie Hulm have created a series of large works on paper as well as digital prints made in photoshop. Vic McEwan and Scott Lea have created an installation based on the loss of a family member and sisters Jacqui Meyers and Julia Davies have created a wall installation based on their shared memories of their family life.

The exhibition has attracted attention from Accessible Arts, the Peak Body for Arts and Disability, with their Arts Development Officer Josie Cavallaro travelling from Sydney to the opening. "8 Artists is a rare slow-burn visual arts project that explores meaningful exchange between artists with and without disability," comments Josie.

At the moment there is a clear shift internationally in how arts and disability is being presented. Amongst this there are amazing Australian artists developing, devising and participating in professional practice who are recognised for their outstanding ability and unique insight. *8 Artists* is a part of this shifting movement by presenting a contemporary art exhibition with exciting new work.

Curator Sarah McEwan says, "The exhibition looks stunning. It's a unique series of collaborations where you can see the visual voice of both artists."

To accompany the exhibition there will be a forum on Saturday 18 May from 11am – 1pm at the Wagga Wagga Art Gallery. It will feature Josie Cavallaro presenting on New Directions in Arts and Disability as well as the 8 Artists in conversation.

This exhibition is supported by the NSW Government through Arts NSW and Ageing, Disability and Home Care.

8 Artists

Wayne Emerson + Jeff McCann
Angela Coombs Matthews + Kellie Hulm
Vic McEwan + Scott Lea
Jacqui Meyers + Julia Davies

Wagga Wagga Art Gallery

18 May – 14 July

Opening: Friday 17 May, 6pm – 8pm

Forum: Saturday 18 May, 11am – 1pm

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