



## An exhibition of Cobalt Artists

Cobalt Artists of Gippsland will present their inaugural exhibition entitled "Essence" at the West Gippsland Arts Centre from Monday, November 28 to Wednesday, December 21.

The exhibition will feature recent works by the Cobalt Artists of Gippsland - Grant Hilton, Lisa McNamara and Leonie Ryan.

The opening will take place on Thursday, December 1 from 6.30pm to 8.30pm.

Cobalt is an informal, intimate, like minded, artist group that formed over 12 months ago. A new member recently joined the group, who will be announced at the opening of the exhibition.

Cobalt meets frequently to exchange views and information about art, visit galleries from Latrobe Valley to Melbourne and exhibit once a year in a group exhibition.

"Essence" is about the essence of three artists, their artworks and flow and rhythm.

Grant Hilton is exhibiting several missed medium works, depicting a story of an eagle's journey to the sun.

Grant has worked all over Australia including some very isolated areas, and through his travels has gained a love for the Aussie bush.

Grant has been painting for a number of years, and is soon to complete his studies for a diploma of visual art, craft and design.

Grant commenced painting after commissioned work and ongoing sales of his paintings. Grant's work is based on his reactions to the world around him, choosing to work with mixed mediums on canvas or paper.

Grant's true love is landscape painting, though one of his goals is to win the Archibald portrait competition.

Leonie Ryan explores the rhythm of time through her artwork titled "Time Follies". Three photographic images of clocks set in old style frames one would see hanging above a door of an inn or tavern in England were paired with three 2.2m high follies with images of past, present and future housed

within the walls of each folly.

Leonie Ryan relishes in exploring the boundaries of photography and strives to go beyond the known boundaries.

Through the process of experimentation, Leonie is exploring photographic sculpture, working to create two and three dimensional photographic images. Leonie has been working with photography for over 10 years and soon to complete her diploma of visual art craft and design.

Lisa McNamara explores the female psyche - the relationship with self and the relationship shared with others. Lisa's current body of work uses geisha as a metaphor for self.

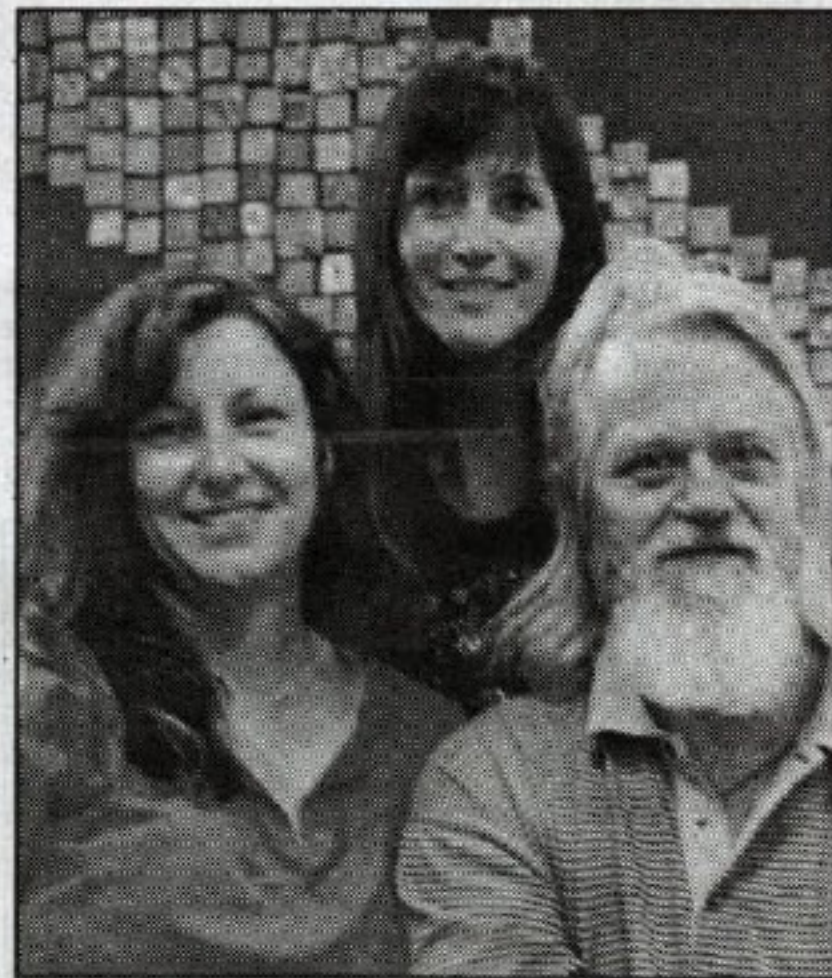
What is revealed and concealed during moments of intimacy is expressed by elaborate use

of vintage wall paper and gold leaf.

The layering and tearing away of these materials becomes the narrative for the precious and secretive, verses the exposed and unmasked. Drawing on her experiences from childhood and living overseas, these works have a strong Asian influence with a tactile quality.

Lisa has been studying the history of women in the art arena for over 10 years exploring issues, limitations and effects on female artists over the past centuries. A mixture of issues surrounded by femininity and Lisa's gentle nature can be seen through her artwork. Lisa enjoys exploring mixed mediums and working with paint on large scale canvas.

For further information on "Essence" call Lisa on 0408 586 216.



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