

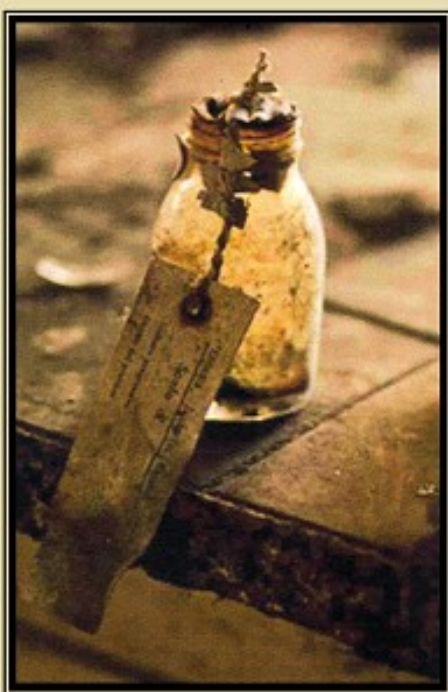
Exposition

Exposition is the result of a partnership with Fibre Arts Australia and Warwick Regional Gallery and features the works of five international artists and seven Australian artists. Together they showcase the varied talents of fibre and textile artists.

Although it is hard to credit, this dynamic exhibition was inspired by the single mysterious image of a small glass bottle containing remnants of a substance and tied with a very weathered label. The twelve artists were invited to use this image as an inspiration for a contemporary artwork. The results of this invitation are not only diverse and exquisite, but also fascinating! The artists have used their own preferred medium, which ranges from cotton to timber, from cardboard to glass, from brocade to mica, from leather to paint.

The techniques employed are equally varied: handstitching, machine stitching, folding, twisting, appliqué, quilting...

Let's have a look at some of them. The first is a collage and two



albums from Estelle Virgen, an Australian artist. The item is called "Esmeralda's Quest" and Estelle tells us: "The process for my artwork began with the arrival of the image of what I assumed to be a very old bottle, a tag attached around its neck... My mind was engaged... Considerable day-dreaming followed and imagination took flight. My collection of photographs taken during real life travel was inspiration for my fanciful travel... The end result was not what I had first envisioned."

On the left is the three dimensional collage which forms part of the item. Made of timber, metal and mica, the collage resembles a number of houses in a tree formation. Interspersed with the houses are birdboxes, clock towers, signposts, steeples, a swing and trees.



For Heike Gerbig from Germany the bottle and its tag elicited a different response, as seen in her "Possum Paper Dream":

Heike tells us that she has been a journalist and writer for many years—a paper person.

This is very evident in her display, in which she has used a palette of cream, beige and brown to resemble old parchment.

An entirely different technique is used by Dionne Swift from the United Kingdom: the power of wind, rain and sea is captured in machine stitching! Many thousands of threads of different textures are found in her response to the old bottle and its weathered tag.



"From the Pit" by Australian Christine Atkins features, in part, three trees sprouting from a peach seed. It may well pose a challenge to understand how this relates to the stimulus glass bottle and the tag, but we leave this to your imagination. Perhaps visiting the exhibition will enlighten you?

This exhibition has much to offer those interested in the human imagination and its creative ability. *Exposition* will close on 30th October, 2014.



SANDRA DAVIS.