

Leesa Knights

ENVIRONMENTAL ARTIST

Sydney, Australia

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Leesa's creative journey explores the repurposing and transformation of common, natural and unusual waste. Utilizing discarded objects gathered from public places, business sites and home, she reconfigures and connects her materials to unearth both beauty and form. Her works are a curiosity shop of compositions, designed to make high end visual statements about our throw-away society.

Projects & Events

3D Poolside Public Art exhibition 2019 - 2020

Selected to participate in:

Warringah Aquatic Centre Summer Exhibition
1 Aquatic Drive
Frenchs Forest NSW

Exhibition Open to the public from Saturday 19 October - 26
April 2020 10-4pm

Exhibition Launch: Sunday 3 November 2019 - 10.30am

Creative Toolkit Panel Talk 2019

Your free guide to sustainable making. Join me and fellow artist's & designers Angela Van Boxtel and Stephanie Powell - all previous winners of the Kimbriki Artist in Residence and passionate advocates for creative reuse across a wide range of disciplines..

Title: Creating for the Future

Date/Time: Wednesday 23 October 6-8pm

Location: Tramshed Arts & Community Centre
1395A Pittwater Road
Narrabeen NSW 2097

For bookings and enquiries please contact:

Rachel Carroll on: 02 9942 2969

Email: creative@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au

Art and Words Project 2019

Selected to create a visual response to a written story as part of a collection of works for the inaugural Art and Words Project. The printed anthology will be available for purchase at the Manly Art Gallery and Museum and all Northern Beaches Library locations for the duration of the Manly Arts Festival. Artworks, printed anthology and images will also be displayed on a digital screen as part of the 2019 Festival.

Theme: Saltwater

Short story written by Katika Funnell titled: Fluid Sequence

Artwork response by Leesa Knights titled: Saltwater Symphony

Mixed media box framed assemblage (800x900)

April-September 2019

MsChief Revolving Art Project 2019

MsChief Bake Brunch Brews,
GO3/105 Willoughby Road
Crows Nest NSW

Design and construction of four revolving paintings on 60cm diameter panel boards for new cosmopolitan café feature wall

Installed August 2019

Kimbriki AiR Video 2019

Previous Kimbriki artists in Residence Promotional Video created by Kevin Case, MainFocus Productions
For Northern Beaches Council NSW

Video live July 2019

The Granny Smith Festival 2018

One of Sydney's largest annual street festivals supported by the local community to celebrate the history and culture of the area. The festival began in 1985 to mark the life and legacy of one of the districts most famous citizens, Maria Ann Smith, also known as Granny Smith.

Artworks selected by Ryde Council for showcase at the Green Hub, an initiative by the sustainability team to promote/highlight waste diversion and waste to art.

Eastwood Shopping Precinct and Oval
Eastwood, NSW 2122

Saturday 20 October 2018

Newport Sculpture Trail 2018

The sixth annual Newport Sculpture Trail aims to energise the cultural offerings for communities on the Northern Beaches of Sydney and is an exciting calendar of events that is now part of the new contemporary Totem Arts Festival.

4m muralled kayak 'Like a River Runs surely to the Sea'
selected for festival installation

Newport Village
Northern Beaches,
NSW Australia

Friday 26th October - Sunday 11 November

Art for All Event 2018

A community focused promotion designed to engage and encourage the public to respond to the newly installed bespoke artworks on Level 1 of Broadway Shopping Centre. Curated by Art Pharmacy Consulting in collaboration with five Sydney artists and their site specific works which respond to the New York loft style refurbishment and the iconic buildings urban surrounds.

Promotional Art Unveiling
Broadway Shopping Centre
Sydney, Australia

July 24-Aug 24 2018

Public Artwork Project 2018

Completed and installed a public artwork for the New York Loft inspired renovation of Level 1, Broadway Shopping Centre in Sydney, Australia. One of four artists selected by Mirvac to design, create and install a site specific work in collaboration with Art Pharmacy Pty Ltd.

Title: Graffiti Rain

Medium: Salvaged graffiti paint

Measurements: 0.5 sq m x 4m height

Installed on 30 May 2018

Jan 2018 - June 2018

Manly Arts Festival 2017

Invited by The Northern Beaches Council as one of four guest panel speakers on the subject of Art Residencies. Sharing detail of my personal application process and the subsequent journey of my 6 month artist in residence program.

Title: Artist Residencies - 'Why they're awesome and how to score one'.

Eramboo Artist Environment,

304 McCarrs Creek Rd,

Terrey Hills NSW

9 September 2017

Manly Arts Festival 2017

The Flying Fish Installation was a free event in collaboration with The 4 Pines Brewery to celebrate all things creative and sustainable on the Northern Beaches of Sydney.

I designed and installed a canoe that I had salvaged from the side of the road, restored and then hand painted with an organic mural across the underbelly and the interior inscribed with the story of the canoes journey from trash to treasure. The work was displayed in the rafters of the 4 Pines Headquarters in Brookvale as part of the 2017 Manly Arts Festival

Truck Bar, 4 Pines Brewery HQ
4G/9-13 Winbourne Rd,
Brookvale NSW.

September 2017

Australian Open of Surfing 2017

Temporary Art Installation for the duration of the 2017 Australian Open of Surfing.

A temporary installation suspended in the roof space of the VIP tent showcasing a free flowing black tribal style mural across the entire white underbelly of a rescued kayak.

VIP Tent
Manly Beach,
NSW Australia

28 Feb - 8 March 2017

The Great Wall of Manly 2016

Ebb & Flow series was a site specific, temporary outdoor art installation to celebrate the iconic Manly Ferry.

A collaboration between Carol Havener (owner of the Little Christmas Ferry Co), Katherine Roberts (Senior Curator at Manly Art Gallery & Museum) and myself. Five panels showcasing harbour inspired patterns re-using hundreds of reject wooden ferries.

Nov-Dec 2016

The Totem Series 2016

A site specific public artwork installed into the grounds of the Eco House and Garden as part of my 2015 Artist in Residence with Warringah Council and Kimbriki Resource Recovery Centre.

Salvaged telegraph poles were positioned, sanded and painted with wild flowers, imaginary root systems and playful 3D attachments which sensitively integrated with the eco garden environment. The artworks are exposed to the elements and therefore designed to weather with time so that they become one with their surroundings.

Title: The Totem Series 2016

Medium: Wood, China, Plastic and Metal

Installation: November 2016

Eco House & Garden

Kimbriki Resource Recovery Centre

Terrey Hills, NSW Australia

Creative period: Nov 2015 - Nov 2016

Bikram Yoga Re-style project 2016

Sustainable styling and interior colour consultation for Sydney business including stairwell, foyer and hallway.

Bikram Yoga,
Brookvale, NSW 2100

May - July 2016

Australian Open of Surfing 2016

Suspended Black and White Sculptural Installation above the bar for the duration of the 2016 Australian Open of Surfing.

VIP Lounge
Manly Beach,
NSW, Australia

27 Feb - 6 March 2016

Social Media Campaign 2015

3D Grumpy Faces created from everyday waste materials for use in animation project.

Social Media event to encourage the public to say NO to plastic bags.

SHOROC,
Northern Beaches,
Sydney, Australia

June - July 2015

Selected Group Exhibitions

Sculpture in the Vineyards 2018

Selected to participate in a four week festival of art, wine and culture

Held in cellar doors and surrounding vineyards
Wollombi, Hunter Valley NSW

Exhibition dates: 2 - 18 November 2018

Re:Worn Exhibition 2018

Invited to participate in an independent exhibition of sculptural artworks referencing jewellery concurrent with and under the umbrella of Sculpture in the Vineyards 2018

The Fireshed Gallery
Wollombi NSW Australia

Exhibition dates: 2 - 18 November 2018

City of Ryde Art Prize 2018

Finalist

Two artworks selected
Sustainable Waste to Art Category
See Street Gallery
Meadowbank Campus
Northern Sydney Institute part of TAFE
Ryde NSW

Exhibition dates: 20 Sept - 4 Oct 2018

Northern Beaches Art Prize 2018

Finalist
General and Small Sculpture Category

The Creative Space,
Curl Curl, Sydney

Exhibition dates: 10 August - 19 August

Northern Beaches Art Prize 2018

Finalist
Waste to Art Category

The Creative Space
Curl Curl, Sydney

Exhibition dates: 24 Aug to 2 Sept

Sculpture in the Vineyards 2017

Outdoor art exhibition showcasing selected artworks throughout the historic village of Wollombi and across 3 boutique Vineyards including: Undercliff Winery, Stonehurst Cedar Creek and Noyce Brothers

Wollombi, NSW Australia

Exhibition: 29 October - 3 December 2017

City of Ryde Art Prize 2017

Finalist
Sustainable Waste to Art Category,
See Street Gallery,
Meadow Bank Campus
Northern Sydney Institute
part of TAFE, NSW

Exhibition: 7 Sept - 20 Sept 2017

Northern Beaches Art Prize 2017

Finalist
Waste to Art and Youth Exhibition
The Creative Space,
Curl Curl, Sydney

25 Aug until 3 Sept 2017

Hidden 2017

Finalist
Outdoor Group Exhibition

Rookwood Cemetery Sculpture Walk.
Hidden Exhibition
Rookwood Cemetery
NSW Australia

26 August - 24 September 2017

Dee Why RSL Exhibition 2017

Extended show of Northern Beaches Art Prize Small Sculpture category

by the category sponsor Dee Why RSL.

Pittwater Rd
Dee Why, NSW

21 August - 3 September 2017

Northern Beaches Art Prize 2017

Finalist
General and Small Sculpture Category

The Creative Space,
Curl Curl, Sydney

11 Aug until 20 Aug 2017

Human Exhibition 2017

Invited to join the Child Artist Response Project. A
Collaboration with Big Kids Magazine &
Manly Art Gallery & Museum.

West Esplanade
Manly, NSW Australia

7 April - 21 May 2017

Sculpture in the Vineyards 2016

Selected as a finalist for the annual outdoor group exhibition,
exhibiting an elevated muralled kayak amongst the trees.

Stonehurst Cedar Creek Winery
Wollombi
Hunter Valley,
NSW, Australia

29 October - 4 December 2016

Sculptures in the Vineyard 2016

2 x Assemblage Works
Invitation into Group Show

Wollombi Arts Council's
Old Fire Shed Gallery
Wollombi NSW

5 Nov - 27 Nov 2016

City of Ryde Art Prize 2016

Finalist

Sustainable Waste to Art

See St Gallery,
Meadowbank
Sydney, Australia

Aug - Sept 2016

Warringah Art Prize 2016

Selected Group Exhibition

Finalist

Waste to Art Category

Warringah Creative Space,
Abbott Rd, Curl Curl,
NSW, Australia

August 2016

Makers Edition 2016

Selected Group Exhibition

B-Side Creative Space,
Brookvale, Sydney
Australia

June 2016

City of Ryde Art Prize 2015

Finalist
Sustainable Waste to Art Prize

See St Gallery,
Meadowbank
Sydney

Aug-Sept 2015

Warringah Art Prize 2015

Finalist
Waste to Art Category
Warringah Creative Space
Abbot Rd, Curl Curl
Sydney

August 2015

City of Ryde Art Prize 2014

Finalist
Sustainable Waste to Art Prize

See Street Gallery,
Meadowbank Campus
The Northern Sydney Institute
part of TAFE, NSW

August 2014

Warringah Art Exhibition 2014

Finalist
Waste to Art Category
If You Like Art

Sydney

July 2014

Certain Nature Exhibition 2014

Selected for Group Show

'Certain Nature' showcased the diverse works of 9 local artists to celebrate the inaugural opening of a new creative space in Curl Curl, Sydney. Warringah Council and Kimbriki Resource Recovery Centre transformed an old dilapidated scout hall into a unique multi-functional art space, benefitting local artists and the wider community.

'Live to Earth' was my first art installation exploring the journey of man made materials and their relationships with the natural living world.

Exhibition: 14 March - 11 April 2014

Manly Arts Festival 2013

I was invited to be part of the 2013 Manly Arts Festival, collaborating with 'The two Hands Project' and 'East Coast Odyssey'.

On a mission to draw attention to the Colourful Killers (Plastic) that litter our oceans, I set sail around Sydney Harbour on board the "Yukon" a 22ft Dutch Sail Ship and created an on board sculpture to reflect the devastating effects that plastic has upon our marine life.

September 2013

Warringah Art Exhibition 2013

Finalist
Waste to Art Category
If You Like Art
Sydney

July 2013

Dee Why RSL Exhibition 2012

Show of 2012 Waste to Art winners
by Dee Why RSL Sponsor

Dee Why, Sydney

August 2012

Warringah Art Exhibition 2012

Finalist
Waste to Art Category
Artfocus Gallery
Sydney

July 2012

Warringah Art Exhibition 2011

Finalist
Waste to Art Category
Artfocus Gallery
Sydney

July 2011

Warringah Council 2011

Website Image Gallery
Travelling Photographic Exhibition

2011 Strategic Community Plan (full page image credit)

October 2011

Warringah Council 2010

Website Image Gallery

Travelling Photographic Exhibition
Northern Beaches,
Sydney

September 2010

Warringah Art Exhibition 2010

Finalist
Waste to Art Category
Artfocus Gallery

Sydney

July 2010

Warringah Art Exhibition 2009

Finalist
Waste to Art Category
Artfocus Gallery

Sydney

July 2009

Solo Exhibitions

Salvaged 2017

A solo exhibition in conjunction with Sculpture in Vineyards 2017 Works created from foraged and salvaged materials to highlight the delicate relationship between nature and man.

Cessnock Regional Art Gallery
Vincent Street,
Cessnock NSW

October 25 to Dec 3, 2017

Everything but the Kitchen Sink 2015

End of Residency Solo Exhibition

The Warringah Creative Space
Curl Curl
Sydney

Sept - Oct 2015

Flights of Fancy 2013

Solo exhibition on the deck. An installation of 3D site specific sculpture panels.

Angel Restaurant and Gallery
Queenscliff, NSW

June - Sept 2013

Off the Wall 2011

First Solo Exhibition

Angel Restaurant & Gallery
Queenscliff, NSW

7 Sept - 11 October 2011

Highly Commended Award 2018

Open Category
Sustainable Waste to Art Prize 2018

Ryde, NSW

Encouragement Award 2017

Small Sculpture Category.

Northern Beaches Art Prize 2017.
Sydney

Artist Residency 2015

6 month Artist residency Program with
Warringah Council & Kimbriki Resource Recovery Centre

On-site studio
Kimbriki, Ingleside, Sydney

May 2015 - November 2015

Honourable Mention Award 2012

Waste to Art Category.
Warringah Art Prize 2012.

Northern Beaches
Sydney

Workshop Facilitator

Australia
- Present

Private

Workshop Facilitator

Sustainable Art Practices
Skills based lessons in:
Sculpture, Assemblage

Corporate and Private groups

Gallery Manager

Queenscliff, Sydney
Nov 2011 - Aug 2013

Angel Restaurant

Overseeing the artistic direction of the gallery space
Marketing, advertising and promoting exhibitions to the wider
community
Networking with artists, media groups and members of the
public

Property stylist

Sydney
May 2011 - Present

Private Clients

Eco friendly Interior styling of wall works and upcycled furniture
For multiple clients.

Private Northern Beaches addresses

Art Consultant

Sydney
Feb 2008 - Sep 2011

Newport Beach Artworks

Relationship Building, Sales and Marketing
Curatorial and Exhibition Assistant
Framing and Gallery Maintenance

Art Teacher

Sydney
Jun 2006 - Mar 2008

Artzkool for Play Planet

Research, Program Design and coordination
Facilitating after school mixed media art classes
Focusing on fun projects, creative development and individual expression
Evaluations and Assessments

Education

BA (Hons) Fine Art

Winchester, UK
Sep 1984 - Jun 1987

Winchester School of Art

Major in Sculpture
Art History including European architecture
Worked with clay, fibre, wood, glass and plastics

Pre-degree

Yeovil, UK
Sep 1982 - Jun 1984

Yeovil Art College

Foundation course in Art and Design
Photography, sculpture, pottery, textiles,
printmaking, painting and still life drawing.

Bibliography

24 Artists and writers celebrate 'Saltwater' - and the Northern Beaches

Twenty four Northern Beaches artists and writers will feature in a new exhibition touring our six libraries and the Manly Art Gallery and Museum as a special highlight of this year's Manly Arts Festival (6 - 29 September).

In the run up to this year's festival, local writers and poets were invited to write original literary responses to the theme 'Saltwater', working under the guidance of award-winning author Zena Shapter.

A specially selected group of twelve artists was then asked to create visual responses to the writer's works.

The paintings, photographs and mixed media artworks will be available for sale and also displayed on a 24 hour digital screen at the Manly Art Gallery and Museum (on West Esplanade Reserve).

The writers' and artists' works are also to be published in an anthology as a permanent testament to their creative partnerships. Copies of the anthology will be available for purchase at the Northern Beaches Libraries (\$20).

The entire exhibition will be launched at Manly Library on Thursday 12 September (6-7.30pm) and individual works will be shown across the Northern Beaches Library network.

Participating writers are Tara Ray, Claire Hampson, Katika Funell, Lachlan Roach, Tullie Helene, Susan Steggall, Katie Zelic, Sonia Zadro, Rodney Jensen, Kristin Prescott, Menios Constantinou and Barbara Hatten.

Associated artists are Jude Hungerford, Sally Mayman, Leesa Knights, Christine Farkas, Nettie Lodge, Susie Baxter-Smith, Vicki Ratcliff, Gloria Florez, Megan Barrass, Belinda Elliot, Katrina Lezaic and Tracy Anderson.

Art Edit Magazine

Style Guide - buy art online
June, July & August Winter Edition 2019

Artwork title: Metamorphosis
Artist Profile: Leesa Knights

The Process of Judging Art & Words

Blog Post by author Zena Shapter
Founder of the Art and Words Project

8 April 2019

Local Artist featured as Broadway Sydney Launches Art for All Collaboration

Art for All
Local News
Manly & Northern Beaches

31 July 2018

Five new artists showcase their work around Broadway Sydney

Art for All Exhibition
Arts Entertainment and Promotional News
Broadway Shopping Centre
Sydney Australia

25 July 2018

Broadway Sydney Launches New Art for All Collaboration

Promotional news for Art and About

Broadway Shopping Centre
Sydney Australia

July 2018

Broadway, Sydney Art for All Introduction

A narrated video highlighting the inspiration and vision for the public artwork Graffiti Rain.

Video created for:
Broadway Shopping Centre
Sydney Australia

Credit to: Camera Guy, Kearon de Clouet
19 July 2018

Art Pharmacy Consulting, Broadway Art Columns 2018

Narrated video of the installation of four new art columns located on:

Level One
Broadway Shopping Centre
Sydney, Australia

Video credit to: Art Pharmacy and Mirvac NSW

18 July 2018

Environmental Artist Leesa Knights

Website and Instagram media release
Sculpture in the Vineyards
Wollombi, NSW Australia

17 July 2018

Annual Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition

News/Media Release
Sculpture in the Vineyards
Wollombi, NSW Australia

December 2017

Apply Now for 2018 Artist Residency Program

News/Media Release
Northern Beaches Council
Mentioned and quoted as former Artist in Residence

9 November 2017

Students thrilled to be part of "Salvaged" exhibition

News/Media Release
A creative and educational collaboration between Cessnock East Public School, Sculpture in the Vineyards and Cessnock Regional Art Gallery, Hunter Valley, NSW Australia

27 October 2017

Salvaged Exhibition 2017

News/Media
Weekend Planner
Herald Advertiser

27 October 2017

Rookwood Sculpture Walk

Blog Review of Hidden Exhibition

Rookwood Cemetery
Sydney

October 8, 2017

Sculpting Art with Everyday Objects

New/Media Release
The Advertiser

Creative and educational collaboration with Cessnock East Primary School, Sculpture in the Vineyards and Cessnock Regional Art Gallery

19 Sept 2017

Rookwood Sculpture Walk 2017

Hidden Exhibition
Rookwood Cemetery
Credit: Like a River Runs surely to the Sea
Getty Images - Australia

4 September 2017

Northern Beaches Art Prize Winners 2017

Small Sculpture Category
Encouragement Award
'Being' - Leesa Knights

August 2017

Selected Artists - 2017

Hidden Exhibition
Rookwood Cemetery Sculpture Walk

May 2017

Great Wall of Symbolic Ferries making a Splash

Rod Bennet,
Manly Daily
Sydney

17 November 2016

The Great Wall of Little Manly Ferries

Warringah Council Press Release
(via public)

11 October 2016

Waste Not, Want Not

Rod Bennet,
Manly Daily
Sydney

9 September 2015

Environmental Artist at Kimbriki

Video summarizing 2015 Art Residency experience
Kimbriki Resource and Recovery Centre

Duration: 3:05

Posted: 28 September 2015

Design Credit: Ray Falzon

Manly Daily

Multiple Posts a Press Releases for the 'Certain Nature'
Exhibition

Warringah Creative Space,
Curl Curl, Sydney, Australia

Throughout March 2014

Creative Space opens with 'Certain Nature' exhibition

Mi Society website news

13 March 2014

2013 Manly Arts Festival

East Coast Odyssey Tours
Setting Sail to Catch the Colourful Killers

Sydney Harbour

September 2013

Channel 7

Featured in the Sydney Weekender
During Off the Wall Exhibition

Angel Restaurant
Queenscliff Sydney

3 March 2012

Sydney Morning Herald

Arts and Entertainment Press Release
Off the Wall solo exhibition

7 September 2011

Manly Daily

Press Release
Off the Wall solo exhibition

9 September 2011

Community Work

Creative Collaboration 2017

Created a large scale black and white assemblage in collaboration with Cessnock East Public School and Kes Harper, Curator of Sculpture in the Vineyards 2017. The wall work was featured in my 2017 solo show Salvaged at Cessnock Regional Art Gallery in Oct 2017 with a diary document and video created by the children. Post exhibition the artwork was donated and then relocated to Cessnock East Public School for permanent display

April - Dec 2017

Royal Far West School 2016

Donation of 3 x Manly Ferry installation panels

Originally designed for Carol Havener (Little Christmas Ferry Co) and displayed as a set of 5 in the forecourt of Manly Art Gallery & Museum.

The Royal Far West School.
Manly, NSW

Jan 2017

Manly Library 2016

Donation of 2 x Manly Ferry installation panels

Originally designed for Carol Havener (Little Christmas Ferry Co) and displayed as a set of 5 in the forecourt of Manly Art Gallery & Museum

Manly, NSW

Dec 2016

Fisher Road School 2015 - 2016

Advice & Design for Multiple Interior & Exterior Art-scaping projects

Donation of 3 x Bouy Installations and 1 x Wall Sculpture

Donations were originally on show at 'Everything but the kitchen sink' solo exhibition

Warringah Creative Space

Curl Curl, NSW

Fisher Road School

Dee Why

Sydney

2015 - 2017

Creative Discussion Group 2014

Creative Disussion

with Artscape & Warringah Council

Regarding proposed upgrade of Dee Why Town Centre

Creative Discussions 2013

Adult Day Care Program

Flintwood Disability Centre

Brookvale, Sydney

Membership

NAVA Member

Premium Plus Membership

National Association of the Visual Arts

Sydney, Australia

Leesa Knights

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