

artwork

ISSUE 44 SEPTEMBER 1999



C O M M U N I T Y A R T S N E T W O R K S A I N C



Published by:
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CAN is a non-profit, membership based organisation that promotes cultural development by supporting community arts.

CAN

- works towards a society in which cultural diversity, artistic expression and human dignity are valued and supported
- promotes and supports excellent processes and practices in community arts
- advocates for community cultural development and community arts
- supports artists, artworkers and communities in work which supports these aims.

COMMUNITY ARTS

Arts practice and creative expression are at the heart of a community's vitality. People have always come together to sing, tell stories, enact rituals, to celebrate, to mourn and to mark significant events in their lives. Besides being able to see great art, people need to actively participate in these activities. This is what is meant by the term community arts, it might be a new name but it is not a new idea.

LOCAL CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

It is through the things we do together as groups and communities that we gain a sense of collective identity, a sense of place and a sense of belonging. When we value these things a positive concern for our social well being follows and we begin to take charge of our present and shape the future to meet our aspirations.

Editor - Julia Tymukas
Sub Editor - Jane Russell
Design & Layout - Jayne Amble

Cover: Mural concept by young artist for *Thirteen Moons* project. Photo: Samiramas Ziyeh. (see article page 1)

CAN is assisted by the Commonwealth Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body and by the South Australian Government through Arts SA.

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ISSN 1033 - 0216



c o n t e n t s

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Nicholas Al-Jeloo, *Thirteen Moons* project. Photo: Samiramis Ziyeh

endless creative fields

SAMIRAMIS ZIYEH

Fairfield Community Arts Network owes its existence to the actions of some locals committed to multiculturalism and this spirit of inclusiveness has imbued its artistic endeavours for ten years. Arts Officer Samiramis Ziyeh offers her insights on the tenth anniversary of the Network.

One of my father's favourite television programs on the Public Broadcasting is the cooking show, where professional chefs perform their culinary arts. During a recent visit with my family in San Jose, California, I watched on as my father observed. A famous chef instructed, "Now we brush the sliced potatoes with olive oil, add a pinch of salt and sprinkle them with chopped dill." Have you noticed that most good cooks never measure their ingredients, and often alter their recipes? At dinner parties when you ask for the recipe of a dish, isn't the reply usually a bit of this and a bit of that? The point I