

MATZY VAN DEN BETZK

BSW (Hons), (Massey) PhD, (UNSW) M Art, (COFA, UNSW)

I am a Potts Point based artist. I was a social worker and researcher before I began a career in art. The sum of my work and life experiences informs my focus: depicting people, narrative and community. I aim to capture figuratively a brief moment in time – an “essence” of a person, moment and context.

My current personal body of work focuses on environment and climate change. I also make a form of commemorative art called Tribute-Art which celebrates people’s lives and creates a permanent legacy.

I have created a business in Tribute-Art helping individuals or members of groups to create collaborative mixed media works that celebrate a person, place or event. This combines my skills in art and social work. I teach part-time art classes for seniors at Coast Seniors Centre in Little Bay, NSW, and I have provided volunteer assistance at CanTeen camps running both Tribute-Art and other art workshops at the annual “Good Grief” camp.

I was a part-time student of Master of Art in painting at COFA, UNSW, graduating in 2010. Prior to this, in my late 30s, I rekindled my love of art and took up art classes at Kuringai Arts Centre, Waverley Woollahra Art Centre, and National Art School. I was also involved in art volunteer work at “Lou’s Place”, a drop-in centre for women in crisis, at Kings Cross and the Art Therapy programme at Sydney Children’s Hospital, Randwick. In 1993 I completed my PhD, after eight years part-time with a deferral following the birth and raising of my three children, an interstate move and three house renovations. My PhD focused on the effectiveness of a Genetic Screening Programme for the Fragile X Syndrome.

I held numerous positions after graduating with a BSW (Hons) from Massey University in 1981, including a position as lecturer in the Department of Social Work at Monash University, the Genetic Co-ordinator Counsellor with the Victorian Clinical Genetics Services, based at Monash Medical Centre, and as the Genetic Social Worker/Counsellor for the Fragile X Screening Programme based at the Prince of Wales Children’s Hospital, Randwick. In the early 1980s, an extended overseas trip found me working at Newham Social Services in London’s ‘East End’ as well as residential relief work in various parts of the United Kingdom.

I was born in Waipukurau, New Zealand, the second of seven children. I have lived in Australia since 1985 with my husband and we have three grown children.

EXHIBITIONS

- 2019 Participating artist in “Land” exhibition, Annandale Creative Arts Centre
- 2018 Finalist Meroogal Women’s art prize, Sydney Living museums
- 2017 Group exhibition “Washing” Coast Seniors Centre, Little Bay
- 2016 Tutors Exhibition, Coast Seniors Centre, Little Bay
- 2015 “Tribute-Art & Clay Connections”, solo show Bellevue Gallery; Group exhibition “Refugees”, Newtown Mission
- 2014 Selected in Blacktown City Art Prize, Dec 2014 - Jan 2015
- 2014 Participating artist 2014 in A4 for A4 Art Gallery, Sydney 6-9 Nov
- 2014 Finalist in “Hidden-sculpture walk” Rookwood Cemetery
- 2014 Participating artist in ‘Boundless Plains: creative conversations with asylum seekers’, Annandale Creative Arts Centre
- 2014 Finalist International Women’s Day Art Prize 2014
- 2013 Finalist in “Mosman IN-situ” 2013
- 2013 Finalist in “Hidden-sculpture walk” Rookwood Cemetery
- 2013 Sydney Finalist in “Clifton’s Art Prize”
- 2013 Finalist in “Chippendale New World Art Prize”
- 2012 “Conversations” exhibition at Kaleidoscope Gallery, Waterloo
- 2012 “Plus One” Group exhibition at Art Est Gallery
- 2011 “Mashed Art” COFA group exhibition at Oxford Art Factory
- 2011 Solo exhibition: “Memories Revisited”, Yuga Gallery, Glebe; “The Wall”, World Bar, Kings Cross, NSW
- 2010 “Freedom Art Prize” group Exhibition at Tap Gallery, Sydney
- 2009 COFA Annual Art Show
- 2009 “Done and Dusted” – Post grad exhibition at COFA, UNSW
- 2004, 2005 Waverly-Woollahra Art School Annual Art exhibition
- 2005 “Art Centre Painters” exhibition, Tap Gallery, Sydney

GRANTS, SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- 2011 ArtStart Grant, Australian Council for the Arts
- 2011 Presentation on “A Trans-disciplinary approach to Memorial Art” at inaugural “Death Down Under” Conference, Sydney University
- 1992 Turner, G; Robinson, H; Laing, S; van den Berk, M; Colley, A; Goddard, A; Sherman, S; Partington, M: ‘Population Screening for Fragile X’, *The Lancet*, May 16, vol. 339 pp. 1210-1213.
- 1991 Fook, J; Carew, R; Ryan, M; van den Berk, M: ‘A new direction in Social Work Education: Teaching by Distance (The Monash Experience)’, *Advances in Social Welfare Education*, pp. 169-180.
- 1990 van den Berk, M: ‘An Introduction to Genetic Counselling” AASW, NSW Branch Newsletter, May (vol.2) pp.9-14.
- 1990 van den Berk, M: ‘Evaluation of BSW Courses provided internally and externally from Monash University Social Work Department” April – internal report for use of Social Work Department and Faculty.
- 1989 van den Berk, M: ‘Effective Genetic Counselling – discussing client questions and concerns’, poster for Australasian Human Genetics Society Conference, July, Alice Springs, NT.
- 1988 van den Berk, M: ‘Comprehending and coping with genetic Information’, poster for Australasian Human Genetics Society Conference, May, Brisbane, Queensland.
- 1987 van den Berk, M: ‘Genetic Counselling and Social Work’, paper and presentation to Australian Association of Social Workers Bi-annual conference, September, Perth, WA.

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- 2010 Master of Art (in Painting), UNSW, College of Fine Arts
- 1994 PhD, UNSW Thesis: “Screening for the Fragile-X Syndrome: effectiveness, consequences and a model for social work practice.”
- 1981 BSW (Hons) Massey University, New Zealand