

Traditional art practise is alive at the Cannery

ARTS ARENA

By ANDRE LIPSCOMBE

The Cannery Arts Centre is instrumental in providing access to visual arts in Esperance and in particular presenting to the local community a diverse exhibition program of contemporary, historical and ethnographic Western Australian art.

Currently showing at the centre are two exhibitions that provide evidence which counters the opinion that the conventions associated with traditional art practise are dead or at least sterile. The disciplines of painting, drawing and modelling are revealed in the recently opened Invitation Art Exhibition and New Works by Artist in Residence Cynthia Ellis.

Invitation Art Exhibition captures a broad survey of local art practise, suggesting that as is the case with everywhere else, art making is inextricably bound to our aesthetic, biological and cultural traditions.

In this show art is reassuring the doubters that representation in its most pictorial form continues to be the most popular and familiar conclusion.

Invitation Art Exhibition at the centre gallery represents 23 Esperance artists working with painting, drawing, sculpture, textiles and a range of mixed media. Diverse conventional and tradition is alive and well in Esperance. Highlights include works by Peter Henson and Tammy Andrews.

Adjacent to the main building at Innerspace is an exhibition and sale of new work by Cynthia Ellis.

New work is a culmination of four weeks work created while based at the centre artist in residence studio. On show is a pristine display of stunning painting in oil, gouache, ink and acrylic.

Ellis' work is a strong defender of the painters' traditions. Ellis tackles the fundamental issues associated with working paint, the stuff of stuff, with careful intentionality.

That aside Ellis has produced an indulgent and energetic feast of powerful objects slabbed with intense substance. These oil paintings are emotionally loaded and cradled with sensual treasures. A show that should be seen to be believed.

Both exhibitions are open daily between 1-4pm until February 21.