

Artist Brief

You are invited to respond to the theme of “*It’s in the Bag*” with an original art work or “bag” creation.

This exhibition is timed to occur during a nation wide campaign “plastic free July”. Artists are welcome to create art pieces that respond to the way we seem to bag everything up in plastic and the long term consequences of that.

There is much happening in our region with regards to a change of awareness surrounding the damage caused by disposable plastic bags This is largely due to the herculean efforts of the Wangaratta Boomerang Bags sewing team who are leading the charge against the scourge of throw away plastic bags. To date, this team of volunteers has sewn **6385 bags**, all from discarded fabrics. What champions !

The arts also have a role in provoking thought around our *Bag* carrying habits.

Women often have a favourite bag and when a favourite bag wears out we notice it’s gone.

Bags don’t just carry our essentials or our groceries they can carry a message. Think of all those bags sold by the gallery of Victoria as exhibition merchandise, or call to mind the stiff, no-nonsense clutch bags that Queen Elizabeth 11 has made part of her signature “I am not to be messed with” style.

So let us celebrate the revival of the reusable, durable, serviceable bag....

This exhibition is also an opportunity to explore the mystery of bags....bags, which can hold secrets, a stash of valuables, a history of travel, all in their fabrics and hidden interiors.

Points of Interest –

- Only 3% of Australia’s plastic bags are currently recycled
- The plastic bag only became ubiquitous at the checkout of supermarkets in the 1980s
- In Victoria in July Coles and Woolworths will cease providing free, thin plastic bags. There will be thicker bags for sale at 15 cents. The voluntary ban does not apply to thin clear bags used to bag vegetables. Other states instituted this limited ban years ago (S.A, ACT, N.T)
- China banned the disposable plastic bag nationwide in 2008
- Plastic Bags are one of the main problematic contaminants of our recycling centres. jamming the machinery.
- Earlier this year a Sperm Whale wash ashore in Spain, dead with 30 kg of plastic in it’s stomach.
- It is estimated that by 2050 the weight of plastics in the oceans will match that of fish.

For Inspiration I list these up and coming events -

- The council will have a stall promoting their new “Don’t Bag It, Say No to Plastic Bags” campaign at the Wangaratta farmers market this Saturday 12th May 8 to 12 pm
- The Boomerang Bag team are have a sewing day open to the public on Saturday May 19th , 10 – 4 pm
At Armstrong House. (at The Close).....*these ladies are a lot of fun to hang out with !*
- Film screening of “BLUE” with discussion about plastic and the state of the oceans to follow.
Wed 23rd May . 6.30 pm Wangaratta Cinema. \$10Bookings online-
<https://tickets.demand.film/event/4524>