



# Coast *MAGIC*

**Multicultural Arts Group In Collaboration Inc**

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## **Artists in Paradise**

### **Exhibition**

**12th to 23rd August, 2010**

**Robina Art Gallery**



*Above: This is a scene of the Robina Art Gallery with works from the Artists in Paradise. In the foreground, the magnificent ceramic work of Midge Johansen. Midge is of Ukrainian background and is an award-winning ceramic artist, sculptor and teacher as well as a published author of books on language. See page 2 for more about Midge .*

*See page 3 for Yvette Barta's report. Yvette was the facilitator of this exhibition.*

## Midge Johansen

Ceramic artist, sculptor, potter, poet, teacher and author, Midge Johansen is passionate about her work. And an acknowledged expert in her field.

Midge was born in a refugee camp in Sale, Victoria, to non-English speaking parents, fleeing a war-ravaged Europe. She grew up in country Victoria, always with an interest in art. After ten years as a primary teacher, she embarked on a career in sculpture.

Her studio on the Gold Coast has been established thirty years. She has taught sculpture at the GC TAFE, the Sculptors Society GC Inc (and continuing) and numerous groups and individuals.

In 2007, Midge became the artwork project manager with GC MAGIC and trained a multicultural group of emerging artists to produce the *Quilt of Diversity*. See below.



The *Quilt of Diversity* is a ceramic mosaic artwork in the Sensory Garden of the Botanic Gardens (Rosser Park, Benowa). 699 tiles were cut out of clay, with some elements sculpted in relief.



Above: Midge with her acrylic artwork at the Robina Art Gallery.

Midge has a brilliant perception of the human form as can be seen in the wonderful works below. She has won first prize in many exhibitions including the annual Exotic Erotic Exhibition of the Sculptors Society GC Inc.

Incredible, when you realize that Midge is largely self-taught in art and is now endeavouring to pass on some of her skills to others.

*E.K.*



## Yvette Barta's Report

### *Artists in Paradise*

Between 12 to 23 August, *Artists in Paradise* held an exhibition at the Robina Art Gallery. Many weeks were spent by me and the group preparing for the exhibition. During this free titled exhibition many different styles were represented by the thirteen members whose works were on display at the gallery.

The painting I exhibited was of a Jellyfish swimming in the deep blue sea; Muneera had a couple of spectacular nudes drawn in ink; Jill and Margie collaborated to create wonderful experimental pastel drawings. The oils painted by Ami and Haruko were simply beautiful and one had to see the work that went into these. As this was Parnian's first exhibition, I congratulate her on the lovely painting of the waterlilies she managed to finish. Mitra exhibited some more of her spectacular stone relief paintings where she uses very fine detailed work to achieve that sculptured effect that looks so good. Farnoush produced colourful acrylics on crushed canvas and hung them with bamboo rods, her horses were among the public's favourite. Christel's floral acrylics came down from the mountain to join the exhibition and her sunflowers were another well liked painting. Nasrin had just arrived home from a trip overseas and just managed to hang her colourful paintings that reflected her two cultural identities. From our newest member Marta there were fabulous water colours which attracted many positive comments. Incredible fruit sculptures by Midge were displayed as well as a terrific clear resin nude. The exhibition was a great success with about 2/3rds of the artworks displaying that elusive red sticker. Quite a number of artworks were sold at this exhibition, with



Midge selling nearly all her sculptures. Midge only had her apple core sculpture left at the end of the week. After so many weeks, I still get enquiries from the public into prices and possible future sales.

For the *Artists in Paradise*, the next step is a workshop consisting of five sessions with Artist Max Muhlberger starting at the end of September. Then in November at the Gold Coast City Chambers, another exhibition showcasing the works of Artists in Paradise titled "Transcending Identity".

I'd like to thank all who participated and helped with the exhibition at the Robina Gallery. With the short amount of time available to me, I could not have done it without your help.



Above: Setting up –  
Jill Bryant with Yvette

Yvette Barta

### Things On

Max Muhlberger **workshops** 22nd Sept. to 18th October.

**Art seminar:** Thursday 14th October 6.15 to 7.30 p.m. at the Southport Library. "Introduction to Aboriginal painting—symbols and methods. Supported by Arts Queensland.

**Art exhibition:** 19th to 25th November at the Chambers of the GCCC. Supported by Arts Queensland.





### Objectives of MAGIC:

- To promote and foster diversity through arts.
- To enhance public awareness and appreciation of cross-cultural arts and artistic productions.
- To integrate artists from diverse cultural backgrounds, promoting their interests and encouraging development.
- To create networking opportunities among artists from diverse cultural backgrounds.
- To exchange experiences and recognize newly arrived artists.

GC MAGIC is an open window to new ideas for harmony in the community through arts.



**You are invited** to join MAGIC and be part of the multicultural arts scene in 2010. Membership is only \$10 a year (or \$25 group membership) which will keep you informed of all the happenings and will give you discounts to RIOT art shop in Robina and at scheduled events.

Remember “multicultural” means everyone. We all come from somewhere, from a multitude of backgrounds, each with something to offer to make us a well-balanced, harmonious Australia.

Membership application forms are available at events or by emailing MAGIC at [goldcoastmagic@bigpond.com](mailto:goldcoastmagic@bigpond.com).

Web: [www.gcmagic.org.au](http://www.gcmagic.org.au)

## Artists in Paradise Exhibition at the Robina Art Centre



### Artists participating in this Exhibition:

- Yvette Barta
- Muneera Jones
- Ami Mesgara
- Parnian Partopour
- Mitra Hazini
- Farnoush Haeri
- Nasrin Vaziri
- Midge Johansen
- Jill Bryant
- Margie Huebner
- Haruko Sakamoto
- Christel Rauchbauer
- Marta Pinter

*Above: At the official opening, 14th August, 2010 Facilitator and artist, Yvette Barta, with acrylic artist, Farnoush Haeri.*

*“I choose a block of marble and chop off everything I don’t need.”*

Auguste Rodin (on how he created statues)