

art&ABOUT

news and reviews on the latest art exhibitions and theatre shows



intimate collection

■ *Intimate* By Deb Gillett ■ Gallery 53 (55 Spence St)
■ Closes August 4 ■ Review by Karen van Harskamp

An unfettered *joie de vivre* emanates from the works of Deb Gillett, as much a projection as an expression.

Effecting a fine balance between depiction, application and an undercurrent of unabashed emotion, her vivid acrylic on canvas pieces *Seven Veils* and *Soul Gathering* both feature a beautiful contrast between form and flowing execution of line that conveys a temporal and sense interpretation of movement, fluid and enticing.

Featherdance and *Thicket* are elevated far beyond traditional studies of fauna and flora with Gillett's take on elation of being, with the artist demonstrating an uncanny talent for visually orchestrating a kaleidoscope of colour and detail with the technique of fore-grounded profiling of her subject to avoid out-of-focus or out-of-focus composition.

Her sculptural pieces are finely

wrought with convincing figure-work. The ceramics *Tempest*, *Chrysalis* and the aptly named *Sweethearts* are driven by character and caught in a moment of intriguing possibilities of narrative. Some viewers will be open to fascination with this sculptural approach while some may find their perspective fixated on aspects of excessive emphasis in palette or characterisation.

In keeping with the title, the nature of intimacy is explored with the audience able to move between more contemplative studies of attraction and sensuality with works such as *Opal Female*, *Opal Male* and the luscious *Ruby* or direct translations of passion captured dramatically in Gillett's *Moonlit*, *Duress* and *Concentration*.

An exhibition that will run the gamut of personal preference, between the implied and the overt, Gillett's work is both refreshing and honest in its intent.



INTIMATE ART COLLECTION

■ DON'T MISS: *Intimate* BY DEB GILLETT AT GALLERY 53

Gallery 53 is currently hosting *Intimate*, a new collection of painting and sculpture from one of North Queensland's best selling and most popular artists, Deb Gillett. Deb is an artist obsessed and consumed by motion and emotion. Her works are typically bright portraits of the things that move her heart. From a non-detailed search to the tenderness of a moment's kiss, she paints in a neo-figurative, expressive style, where the most important consideration is the emotion experienced first during the creation, and then at the viewing of the artwork. Sculptures created for *Intimate* are beautiful and angular, delicate ceramic creatures hand built with an intimate feel. Abundantly, sensually, and with a delicate ceramic sensibility, the present a surprising and unique view of the human form.

■ The *Intimate* exhibition is currently on display at Gallery 53 until Saturday, August 4.



artist PROFILE

DEB GILLETT

WHY DID YOU WANT TO EXPRESS YOURSELF ARTISTICALLY?

I can't not express myself artistically... what makes me up every day is a collection of ideas screaming "do this! do that! do this!"

WHY DID YOU WANT TO BE A FINE ARTIST?

Since I moved to Brisbane I have loved the energy of my native place by creating a new narrative about Queensland from diverse people. From 2010, I have been busy, with my life of work and art.

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE LOCAL ART SCENE?

We are more finding. Are you looking at Exhibitions?

WHO ARE YOUR INSPIRATIONS?

I'm embracing "inspiration" at Gallery 53 and creating a sculpture gift for Thomas Bayliss. A portrait of a man, my first, for the 2010 Queensland State Awards. I was recently represented by Peter Hill Books in Sydney in June. Inspiration comes from the local Queensland gallery network. My first work was inspired by the Pacific, for clients including Royal Darwin.

WHAT ARE YOU CURRENTLY?

Each day about all about art, I want to know more with a strong connection to the heart about creating these beautiful moments. We are going to all about passion, my first person. I have done that and it continues to go, but I am also making a sculpture with the bigger ideas.

— Karen van Harskamp

intimate collection

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She depicts her subject within the passage of time, creating art that subtly explores the immediate past and the present, while also liberating the future. Her work is beautiful and angular, delicate ceramic creatures hand built with an intimate feel. Abundantly, sensually, and with a delicate ceramic sensibility, the present a surprising and unique view of the human form.

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Cairns Post

"intimate collection"

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Her sculptural pieces are finely wrought with convincing figure work. The ceramics *Tempest*, *Chrysalis*, and the aptly named *Sweetcheeks* are driven by character and caught in a moment of intriguing possibilities of narrative. Some viewers will be open to fascination with this sculptural approach while some may find their perspective fixated on aspects of excessive emphasis in palette or characterisation.

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