

# matters of the arts



## Brenda Runnegar

Brenda Runnegar will be The Art Vault's artist in residence for the month of January.

Brenda is a well established, Canberra-based artist with an extensive body of work often touching on the abstract and unusual with a hint of the naïve.

Brenda studied Visual Arts in Canberra, and completed her Masters of Fine Art at Monash University. Throughout her studies and on completion of her degree Brenda has continued to produce substantial quantities of work that have featured in various solo exhibitions in not only Canberra and the ACT, but has also in curated international group exhibitions including

'Chiuso per ferie' at the Monash Centre, Prato, Italy.

Brenda describes her work as having "a lot to do with human intervention in the landscape, never about an innocent untouched nature. The relationship of human inhabitants to the land seems always to be an opposing one, of antagonism and confrontation rather than harmony. Concepts of living with the land rather than conquering it are very limited. It seems to me that for artists it is always a vehicle, rarely an end in itself. Of course Aboriginal artists have, in my opinion more of an affinity to the landscape than most of us. They are 'at one' with it.

White Australians don't have the benefit of many centuries of living in one place, of developing a dreaming, an entire spirituality based on such a relationship to place."

Her focus during the time of her residency will be based on her studies of the Mallee and surrounding areas such as Lake Mungo and various salt lakes, with the intention to explore her ongoing interest in the connection between the landscape and its history and inhabitants both human and animal.

Brenda is now exhibiting a body of work at Gallery 25 with the exhibition running through until the 28th of January.