

# Avant Garden 2009

## Arts Council Toowoomba Artists in Gardens

Arts Council Toowoomba (ACT) is working to ensure that *Avant Garden 2009* will once again showcase the region as a vital and creative centre for the arts and engage the community and artists during Toowoomba's Carnival of Flowers 18-27 September 2009.

*Artists in Gardens* will be a new feature in 2009 with artists working in parks and gardens, interacting with the visitors to the festival. Works on paper and canvas will be produced on site, giving the public the opportunity to witness artists in action. As this project is held in spring, a time of renewal and regeneration, artists are asked to consider spring and carnival as an integral part of the project.

At a number of locations in the Botanical gardens, Queens Park and the private exhibition gardens, artist will be able to work "*en plein air*" for a 2-3 hour session. ACT will provide tables and easels, signage and support for the site where artists will also be able to sell their works. Participating artists are encouraged to return to the site at least once during the carnival to show the original work/s finished and to start more works. Our aim is to showcase local artists who draw and paint whilst giving the public a view to the processes involved.

Arts Council Toowoomba (ACT) has always hoped to open *Avant Garden* to a wider audience and group of artists. To fulfil this dream and engage a larger group of artist practitioners this year not only will 2 dimensional artists be working in the public gardens but an array of performers: street theatre groups, school drama groups, dancers, musicians, jugglers and acrobats will perform throughout our public spaces. The subjects for the *Artists in Gardens* works can be drawn from all these performers and scenes in our iconic Carnival of Flowers. We envision a much broader theme than flowers for you to work from. We also wish to encourage artists working in many styles, from abstract and colour field, through expressionism and impressionism to photo-realism, to participate. All materials for mark making on an array of surfaces are also within your brief. Please indulge all of your imaginative and creative processes for the public to witness art in its wonderful diversity.

Sites will be available for morning (9-12am) and afternoon (1-4pm) sessions. Artist do not have to work for the entire three hours however they or a "buddy" must attend the site to answer questions, sell work and provide security for artworks and equipment. The new project *Artists in Gardens* will run from 18-27 September 2009.

### **To participate in *Artists in Gardens 2009* :**

An expression of interest (EOI) must be submitted to Arts Council Toowoomba (ACT) by **5pm Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July** which will also include 3-5 images of your work ( JPEG or photos or slides) a short artist statement and CV, an ACT membership application and fee \$15. See <http://actmba.org.au/membership/> for copies of forms. No entry fee is required from current financial ACT members. Post to: Arts Council Toowoomba Inc, PO Box 1421, Toowoomba Qld, 4350

All participants in *Artists in Gardens 2009* must be current ACT members. This membership covers public liability insurance.

A selection panel will determine the final artists involved in *Artists in Gardens 2009*.

Once selected, artists can nominate available times and sites over the Carnival period 18–27 September 2009. Artists can nominate up to three site revisits over the ten day period. Artists can also nominate to work at different sites. A full list of sites will be forwarded to selected artists. At this stage only one site will be available in each exhibition garden but the public gardens will have a number of sites.

If your EOI is successful you will be notified by **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2009**. Email is preferred method of communication. If email is not available to you please indicate on your EOI and put in a phone contact which will allow for a maximum 24hr response.

Successful artists are at liberty to sell their work from the site. No commission will be charged by ACT, however a small site fee (\$20) will be charged once only for site usage during the project. Artists are encouraged to sell work finished previously to carnival.

### **Entry Checklist:**

- EOI form completed and signed
- Entry fee and membership form if applicable
- 3–5 Images: CD, prints, slides
- CV or exhibition history
- Artist statement

Post to:

**Arts Council Toowoomba Inc, PO Box 1421, Toowoomba Qld, 4350**

**EOI must reach ACT by 5pm, Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2009.**